

U.N. denies invitation to Waldheim

UNITED NATIONS — The United Nations has not invited Kurt Waldheim, the former German leader, to the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, it was announced today.

U.S. scales back atom bomb exhibit

WASHINGTON (AP) — Smithsonian Institution officials said today they would scale back an exhibit on the U.S. atomic bomb which was to have been shown in Japan.

Palace denies U.K. queen urges to divorce

LONDON (AP) — New reports that Queen Elizabeth II is considering a divorce from Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, were denied today by a palace spokesman.

Separated twin speaks, sister critical

LONDON (AP) — One of the separated twins who were separated at birth and reunited last week, spoke today, but her sister was critical of the reunion.

PNA wrecks Palestinian houses

GAZA (R) — The Palestine National Authority (PNA) Wednesday demolished five houses built illegally on state-owned land in Gaza, Palestinians said. Mohammad Kahlout, 38, from the Sheikh Radwan area in Gaza city, said Palestinian police wrecked his house and four others in the neighbourhood. "Four months ago, the Palestinian Authority gave us a 48-hour notice to evacuate our houses because they would be demolished since they were built on state-owned land without permits," Mr. Kahlout told Reuters. "They came today and without notice they demolished the houses before we could remove the furniture," he added. Mr. Kahlout and his nine-member family said they had nowhere to go and were penniless. Former Israeli occupiers used house demolition as a form of punishment against Palestinians in Gaza. "When (PLO Chairman Yasser) Arafat arrived we thought we would have a happy life, but we never thought we would end up this way," he said.

Knesset ratifies treaty with Jordan

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli parliament ratified Wednesday the Oct. 26 peace treaty with Jordan. Only 52 of the 120 deputies turned out for the formalities of the second and third readings and just two voted against, both from the far-right Mofet Party. Jordan began to take control Monday of a 340-square-kilometre border strip, most of which Israel seized after the 1967 Middle East war. Speaker Shevah Weiss has complained that the government handed back land even before the treaty was ratified.

EU delegation to tour Mideast

PARIS (AFP) — The European Union (EU) will send a delegation to the Middle East next week to support the troubled peace process, a French foreign ministry spokesman said Wednesday. Spokesman Richard Duque said the EU would send a trilateral delegation to the Middle East from Feb. 7-10, with successive stops in Syria, Israel, Gaza and Lebanon. The delegation will be led by Foreign Minister Alain Juppé, who is currently presiding the EU, and will include representatives of Spain and Germany, respectively France's successor and predecessor at the EU's helm. "We support the peace process and hope that the current difficulties will be overcome as quickly as possible," Mr. Duque said.

Lebanon to probe waste dumping

BEIRUT (AFP) — The Lebanese government Wednesday asked the court of justice to investigate the dumping of toxic waste in Lebanon and called on a special committee to remove it as quickly as possible, officials said here. The decision was taken a day after the international environmental group Greenpeace accused the Environment Ministry of trying to dump containers of toxic waste in mountains northeast of Beirut. The court of justice will try to find out who brought thousands of barrels of toxic waste into Lebanon.

India denies building Iran chemical plant

NEW DELHI (R) — India has stressed it has no chemical weapons and does not have the technology or expertise to manufacture them. The Indian Foreign Ministry, in a statement faxed to Reuters on Wednesday, denied a report in the Washington Times that three Indian companies were helping Iran build a secret poison gas complex. The statement quoted a ministry spokesman as saying the Washington Times had made similar allegations in the past. Monday's Washington Times story was reported by the Indian Express. "Clarifying the position, the spokesman said the projects for the construction of pesticides factories in Iran were put out to international tender and Indian companies won these tenders in open competition," the statement said.

Hurd: Libya still prime suspect

LONDON (AFP) — British members of parliament (MPs) Wednesday accused the United States of hiding facts implicating Iran in the 1988 Lockerbie airline bombing, but Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd said Britain's case against Libya had not changed. The House of Commons hearing came in the wake of a Scottish newspaper report last week that newly released U.S. intelligence data showed an Iranian ayatollah had paid extremists \$10 million to bomb the Jumbo jet. "During the early stages of the investigation," said Mr. Hurd, "the possibility that Palestinian extremist groups might be responsible was extensively investigated and so were reports of Iranian involvement."

King, Arafat, Rabin and Mubarak meet today

Unprecedented Cairo summit to focus on Palestinian-Israeli track

By P.V. Vivekanand with agency dispatches

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein today meets with the leaders of Egypt, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel in an unprecedented Middle East summit that will seek to break the deadlock in the Palestinian-Israeli track of the peace process.

Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti said the summit was planned by the four leaders in telephone contacts. Mr. Kabariti's Egyptian counterpart, Amr Musa, announced the meeting after President Hosni Mubarak met with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in Cairo.

Mr. Peres, upon his return to Israel after his brief visit to the Egyptian capital, described the summit as a "coalition for peace" that will seek to revive the sagging peace process.

Mr. Kabariti said in Amman that the summit, where Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin would meet with three of his main Arab partners in peace, including PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, would focus on the troubled Palestinian-Israeli peace negotiations.

Jordan hopes that the meeting would result in producing a mechanism that would give a new impetus to the peace efforts in all its dimensions, particularly on the Palestinian-Israeli track because Jordan believes that genuine peace should be comprehensive and enable the Palestinians to exercise their rights in accordance with international resolutions and in implementation of the Oslo and Cairo agreements.

Mr. Kabariti was quoted as saying by Jordan Television. The Oslo accords, worked out in secret between the PLO and Israel, were formulated into a declaration of principles that was signed by the two sides in Washington on Sept. 13, 1993. Subsequently, the two sides negotiated the implementation of interim Palestinian autonomy in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and signed an agreement in Cairo on May 4. Under the Cairo accord, the PLO launched self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, but the expansion of Palestinian autonomy to the rest of the West Bank remains stalled after a spiral of violent attacks by hardliners who oppose the accord.

Jordan has signed a peace treaty with Israel. Negotiations between Israel and Syria and Israel and Lebanon — the two other tracks of the peace process launched in Madrid in 1991 — remain deadlocked.

Earlier Wednesday, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said President Mubarak had invited King Hussein to join him in a traditional Ramadan meal (iftar) in Cairo on Thursday.

Following the iftar, there will be a meeting including the Jordanian, Egyptian, Palestinian and Israeli sides to discuss the present status of the peace process and other issues under the Israeli-Palestinian agreement signed by the two sides in Cairo last year.

"The meeting will seek to produce means to advance the process and overcome the problems facing it on some of the tracks ahead of a comprehensive and just peace in the region," the agency said without elaboration.

According to statements made by Mr. Musa in Cairo, Egypt is making intense "efforts to salvage the peace process from collapse."

"The summit will focus on the Palestinian track because it is the track which has been blocked by too many obstacles," Mr. Musa told reporters. "The summit is to try to achieve a breakthrough."



Hosni Mubarak

Ramadan fast, which began Wednesday, President Mubarak has repeatedly acted as mediator between Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat, but Thursday's meeting will be the first to bring in King Hussein.

Asked why Jordan was invited, Mr. Musa told a Cairo news conference: "Of course, it has significance. It is a parallel addition to the peace process. There are agreements between the Palestinian Authority and Jordan and there are interactions... and there is an agreement between Jordan and Israel. This is why Jordan will be coming here."

Egypt is apparently also concerned that the process of trying to end almost five decades of Arab-Jewish hostility could be further undermined by deadlock between Syria and Israel over the future of the Golan Heights.



Yitzhak Rabin

Mr. Peres told reporters after meeting Mr. Mubarak to wrap up details that the four-party summit was "an innovative effort in the history of the Middle East."

"I think it (the summit) would serve peace in the Middle East because more and more what we are facing in the Middle East is not a confrontation like it used to be in the past between Jews and Arabs and Palestinians and Israelis, but a real attempt to create a coalition for peace," Mr. Peres said.

"I believe this is probably the first time that we are meeting like this, a coalition for peace made up of not one or two parties, but of three states and an autonomous area."



Yasser Arafat

Mr. Peres asked President Assad to join in.

"I will say that on our side as far as we are concerned there is an open invitation to President Assad. If he wants to join in we shall clearly be happy if he will do so... we don't want to exclude anybody," Mr. Peres said.

Mr. Mubarak said after meeting Mr. Assad and Saudi King Fahd in Alexandria in

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Israel approves building new Jerusalem colony

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — In the escalating fight over Jerusalem, an Israeli planning committee on Wednesday approved construction of a large Jewish neighbourhood in the eastern sector claimed by the Palestinians as a future capital.

Angry Palestinian leaders said Israel was violating the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord by creating facts on the ground before talks on the final status of the Holy City begin next year.

"There is no meaning to the peace process," said Palestinian Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo. "Israel wants to replace the talks by drawing a new map, and we reject this."

The go-ahead for the new Jewish neighbourhood of Har Homa came a day before Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was to meet with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, Egyptian President Hosni

Mubarak and King Hussein in Cairo to try and rescue the Israel-PLO negotiations that have been halted over a deep crisis of confidence.

Wednesday's decision was likely to further inflame the Palestinians who complain that Israel's land grab in the West Bank and East Jerusalem endangers the negotiations. Last week, Mr. Rabin's cabinet approved more than 3,000 new homes in Jewish West Bank settlements ringing Jerusalem.

The Har Homa neighbourhood in southern Jerusalem will have 6,500 homes, with construction likely to begin next month.

Har Homa will be built on land Israel seized the 1967 war and then "annexed" into Jerusalem. A spokesman said 75 of the 460 acres set aside for the neighbourhood were confiscated from Arab landowners. Other land was taken from Israeli landowners.

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Once completed, Har Homa would boost East Jerusalem's Jewish population by some 25,000. Since 1967, Israel has built a ring of Jewish suburbs in East Jerusalem, and today Jews narrowly outnumber the 150,000 Palestinians in the eastern sector. In all, Jews make up two-thirds of Jerusalem's population of 560,000.

In a related development, police planned to deploy several hundred extra troops in and near Jerusalem's old walled city on Thursday, in anticipation of prayers at the Al Aqsa Mosque on Friday.

Meanwhile, Palestinians from across the political spectrum launched an anti-settlement campaign, calling for donations to buy land, plant trees and organise protests, under Palestinian Information Minister Abed Rabbo. He said that a rally was planned for Friday near

Syria to consult U.S.

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syria's ambassador to the United States Walid Al Muallem will return to Washington this week for talks with an American team supervising the deadlocked Syrian-Israeli peace negotiations, officials said on Wednesday.

They said the decision was conveyed by Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa to U.S. Ambassador to Syria Christopher Ross during a meeting on Tuesday.

Mr. Sharaa also gave Mr. Ross a message from President Hafez Al Assad to President Bill Clinton in reply to a message which Mr. Clinton sent earlier on the peace process.

Mr. Muallem returned to Damascus following a round of talks with his Israeli counterpart in the U.S. in December in which the chiefs of staff of the Syrian and Israeli armed forces took part.

Syria said the talks produced no results and accused Israel of presenting impossible demands during the session, held at the State Department under the auspices of Washington.

Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman said Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was unable to take any decisive decision on peace with Damascus because he was worried about his political future.

Rabin's dwindling popularity inside Israel, caused by his policies, is making him anxious about his political future especially with the approach of the elections. That is why he is unable to take any decisive decision on peace," Mr. Salman told Reuters.

But he said Syria would continue to cooperate with efforts by the United States and any other party aimed at achieving a just and comprehensive peace based on U.N. resolutions calling for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab lands.

Syria and Israel have reached no tangible results in more than three years of peace talks.

Jordan wins IOJ presidency

AMMAN (J.T.) — The International Organisation of Journalists (IOJ) elected Jordan as its first Arab president on Wednesday.

Suleiman Qudah, head of the Jordan Press Association (JPA), will serve as president of the 120-member IOJ for the next four years. He won 66 votes against 27 secured by Poland's Andrzej Ziemski.

Mr. Qudah, deputy chief editor of Al Rai daily, is the first Arab to head the Prague-based IOJ.

Antonio Nieva of the Philippines was elected secretary-general with 51 votes against 45 secured by Martin Morim of Portugal.

Carlos Camano from Argentina secured vice-presidency and Moses Naga-montoo from Guana won second vice-presidency. Bulgaria's Alexander Anjelov was elected treasurer.

Naim Toubassi, president of the Palestinian Journalists Association, was elected vice-president representing the Arab group, and Jean-Francois Tealdi as vice-president for Europe.

Ladi Lawal, a Nigerian, was named vice-president for Africa, Cuba's Topal Poez Hernandez for Latin America, Vietnam's Phang Quang



Suleiman Qudah

for Asia, and Earl Posky from Santa Lucia for the Caribbean.

A motion adopted at the end of an annual IOJ congress held here called for the protection of journalists and freedom of the press around the world.

For the first time since the IOJ was founded in 1946 as a stalwart against imperialism and capitalism, the organisation took no stand on political issues such as Algeria or the

Middle East peace process. In its final session, the conference adopted a statement "affirming the importance of consolidating the IOJ role in the international scene and of increasing coordination and cooperation among its members in finding positive solutions to problems facing journalists."

The statement said the IOJ, founded in 1946, was committed "to protect and strengthen the rights of journalists and their freedoms."

In 1952, in the thick of the cold war, most western associations split off from the IOJ to form the International Federation of Journalists which is based in Brussels.

The Amman conference called for "greater unity" between professional organisations but made no reference to a possible reunification.

Outgoing Secretary General Gerard Gatnot of France, urging the protection of journalists, said 129 colleagues had been killed in 1994 while at work around the globe.

The Qudah's main task will be to reorganise the finances of the organisation, which now has an annual budget of \$1.5 million, down from an average \$10 million in the 1980s.

Cannon sounds start of Ramadan

CAIRO (Agencies) — A blast from an antique cannon heralded the start of Ramadan in Egypt on Wednesday, as Muslims around the world begin a month of dawn-to-dusk fasting.

Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, Nigeria, Iran, Jordan and Syria also started Ramadan on Wednesday, a day after Saudi Arabia and most countries in the Arabian Peninsula.

In Pakistan, Ramadan which is calculated according to the sighting of the crescent moon, was set to begin on Thursday.

Aided gunmen loot former U.N. compound

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Militiamen loyal to warlord Mohammad Farah Aided occupied the former U.N. headquarters compound here Wednesday and embarked on a systematic looting after it was abandoned by U.N. troops.

The militia of General Aided's Somali National Alliance (SNA) moved in to occupy the compound, the former U.N. embassy in the Somali capital, by blocking the main entrances with their pick-up battle-wagons, known as "technical".

The move came despite pledges by Gen. Aided and other clan leaders to respect the U.S. property as U.N. troops leave Somalia following the failure of rival warlords to form a government of national unity, and raised fears that rival militias would fight for the key site.

Only a few shots could be heard from within the sprawling compound during the morning. Little of value was left to appropriate after the 950-strong Pakistani battalion which had guarding the 33-hectare compound pulled out at 6:00 a.m. (0300 GMT).

Contractors had already removed almost all equipment belonging to the United Nations and the U.S. liaison office, and shipped it overseas.

"The Pakistanis had already looted everything and left us nothing, no generators or computers," complained a young would-be looter at one of the gates.

The 8,000 U.N. troops and some 350 U.N. civilians remaining in Somalia — most quartered at Mogadishu's airport and seaport — will all leave this lawless Horn of Africa country by late March under the protection of a seven-nation U.S.-led task force dubbed "Operation United Shield."

They abandoned the main compound on Jan. 15 to the contractors and the Pakistani security battalion.

Militiamen looted the U.N. Development Programme offices in the United Nations' southern compound next to the airport on Monday, and most observers here expect fierce fighting for the airport and possibly the seaport as well as soon as the last

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Moscow issues warrant for Dudayev, redoubles Grozny bid

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russia stepped up its intimidation campaign against Chechenya on Wednesday, issuing an arrest warrant for its president, Dzhokhar Dudayev, and claiming a significant military advance in the capital Grozny.

Meanwhile, the Interior Ministry officially took command of the intervention in line with President Boris Yeltsin's assertion that following the fall of the presidential palace in Grozny two weeks ago, all that remains to be done in the separatist republic is a "clean-up operation."

General Alexander Kulikov, head of Russia's Interior Ministry forces, was named commander of the Chechenya operation, the news agency Interfax reported. He replaces Gen. Anatoly Kvachin of the Defence Ministry.

Russia's chief prosecutor accused Mr. Dudayev of treason and incitement to terrorism and issued a warrant for his arrest, Interfax said.

The charges arise from Mr. Dudayev's actions in unilaterally taking Chechenya out of Russia three years ago, then taking up arms against Russian troops when they entered the Caucasian republic to crush the secession on Dec. 11.

Ten days ago the Russian authorities said they had launched a manhunt for Mr. Dudayev. Since then they have sought to undercut his authority, setting up a new Moscow-controlled administration to reimpose Russian rule in Chechenya.

A Chechen spokesman quoted by Interfax said Wednesday that Mr. Dudayev was at his military headquarters in the capital, Grozny, several hundred metres from the front line separating Russian and Chechen forces.

The arrest warrant was issued as Russian troops broke through rebel lines in Grozny, crossed the river

Sunzha and set up a bridgehead in an area controlled by the Chechens, according to reports by Interfax.

The agency quoted a Defence Ministry spokesman as saying that a Russian unit had captured a bridgehead on the eastern side of the river in southeast Grozny on Wednesday.

A Chechen commander told Interfax news agency the claims were false. Thousands of Russians and Chechens have died since President Boris Yeltsin sent troops into the rebel region on Dec. 11 to crush its three-year independence bid.

Russian troops also redoubled their efforts to push Chechen fighters from Grozny but it was increasingly clear Moscow's forces were bogged down in the city ruins. Chechen separatists reported a determined Russian

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Queen sends condolences to U.N. secretary general

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday sent a letter of condolences to U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali on the death of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Executive Director James Grant.

Following is the text of Queen Noor's letter:

"The news of the death of James Grant has left us deeply saddened. On our own behalf and that of the people and government of Jordan, King Hussein and I would like to express to you, to the Grant family, and to all the members of the United Nations system our grief and our sense of loss at the death of an exceptional human being and an exemplary international civil servant.

We and many others around the world will long celebrate James Grant's tenure as executive director of UNICEF. His greatest achievement was not merely to have launched programmes and initiatives that saved the lives of tens of millions of children and women, and improved the health and well-being of hundreds of millions of others. It was his ability to inspire, cajole and educate the entire world about the capacity of even the poorest countries to improve and sustain the survival rates and life quality of their children, using low-cost, simple technologies and the empowerment of mothers and families with knowledge.

The World Summit for Children in 1990 may have been the high point of his career, bringing together an unprecedented number of national leaders to affirm their commitment to improving the well-being of the world's children.

Mr. Grant always carried in his pocket a small sachet of oral rehydration salts. It reflected his conviction of how great deeds could be accomplished through relatively simple means. Perhaps the greatest testament to Mr. Grant's person and life is that the power and the fruits of his convictions will continue to save and to improve the lives of women and children around the world, even after his death. In their lives and hearts, consciously or not, they now carry a picture and a memory of James Grant.

May his soul rest in peace and his memory enjoy God's blessings."

Dr. Grant passed away in New York on Jan. 28 at the age of 72.



Jordanian soldiers on peacekeeping mission for U.N.

Jordan to join in marking U.N.'s 50th anniversary

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — United Nations Secretary General Boutros Ghali Wednesday launched the organisation's 50th anniversary commemoration at a ceremony at U.N. headquarters in New York.

To mark the beginning of celebrations, the secretary-general will inaugurate a year-long United Nations exhibit of the original U.N. Charter.

A world wide programme of events, involving the entire U.N. system and nearly all of its 185 member states, is expected to culminate in a special commemorative meeting of the General Assembly from Oct. 22-24.

National committees for the 50th anniversary have already been established in 100 countries, including Jordan.

The Jordanian committee is headed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and incorporates participants from the ministries of Education, Higher Education, Youth, Information, Culture and Social Development, as well as representatives from the Royal Scientific Society and the

Armed Forces.

Anniversary activities focus on educational efforts designed to reach a broad audience, especially the young. A source from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs told the Jordan Times that activities in Jordan will take place all year, but that they will centre on the week from March 13 to April 7, and will involve televised speeches by the foreign minister, the United Nations representatives in Jordan and a member of Jordan's mission to the U.N. exhibitions on U.N. activities and sports events.

Schools will be encouraged to hold classroom discussions on the role and functions of the U.N.

In an effort to draw attention to the involvement of Jordanian troops in U.N. peacekeeping missions, a Jordan Television camera team will visit members of Jordan's peace-keeping forces on location in Croatia, Angola and Haiti. In addition, commemorative stamps and coins bearing the U.N. emblem will be issued shortly.

Asked whether he felt that Jordanians had reason to celebrate the 50th anniversary of an organisation often seen as not acting

in the interest of the Arab World, Adnan Ahn Odeh, Jordan's ambassador to the U.N., replied that as the only international organisation of its kind, and the only body to address global issues such as poverty, the environment and human rights, the United Nations served the interests of everyone, including Jordanians.

But other voices were more critical. A former Jordanian ambassador to U.N. offices in Geneva told the Jordan Times that Jordanians want the U.N. to be more effective in implementing its resolutions and adopt one standard on human rights and on nuclear weapons.

They would also like to see a more democratically constituted Security Council, less intransigence, an end to favouritism in the recruitment for U.N. posts and an end to duplication of U.N. efforts by its various regional offices.

During the anniversary year, the U.N. is convening the World Summit for Social Development, which will take place in Copenhagen in March, and the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in September.

Man kills sister, injures other for 'immoral behaviour'

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — One woman was killed and another was seriously injured after being shot by their brother in Ajloun town in Ajloun for what the slayer described as "immoral behaviour," according to police.

The women identified as Nabilah A., 23, and Najah A., 32, were shot several times by their brother Mahmoud A., who surrendered to police immediately, one source told the Jordan Times.

The 40-year-old man confessed to committing the crime, said the source speaking on condition of anonymity.

According to the source, Nabilah, who died on the way to hospital, was shot in her home after being released from prison Tuesday. She had served eight months for becoming pre-

grant out of a wedlock.

"Nabilah told police that a man promised to marry her and took advantage of her, and when police questioned the man they discovered that he was married and he refused to marry that woman," the source said.

Nabilah delivered her baby in jail, the source said. She was released after her father signed a guarantee that she would not be harmed, he added.

In a heated argument, the source said, Mahmoud accused Najah of covering up her sister's pregnancy. He drew a gun and shot both women, said the source.

An Ajloun police official contacted by the Jordan Times Wednesday would only confirm that Nabilah had been killed, and that her sister was shot and injured, but he declined to give any further details until the investigations are

over." Mahmoud has been arrested pending investigation.

Both women were taken to Al Iman Hospital in Ajloun. Nabilah was declared dead on arrival, while her sister, Najah, was listed in critical condition and was transferred to Princess Basma Hospital in Irbid the same evening.

An official at Princess Basma Hospital told the Jordan Times Wednesday that the victim was in fair condition and is expected to survive.

This is the first "crime of honour" to be reported in the Kingdom since the beginning of 1995.

Last year, the Public Security Department (PSD) reports showed that crimes of honour ranked highest among the total number of reported crimes in the Kingdom. There were 24 reported honour crimes, of the 87 reported murders in Jordan.

Literary, scientific stream record highest tawjihi scores

AMMAN (J.T.) — A total of 383 scientific stream and 54 literary stream tawjihi students obtained 90 per cent and over in the mid-year general certificate examinations held last month, according to Mohammad Obeidat, director of the Examinations Department at the Ministry of Education Wednesday.

Dr. Obeidat said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the high scores this year were the result of extra efforts on the part of the students to get the highest possible grades to ensure their entry into universities and partly because this year, the questions set by the Ministry of Education were more clearly and adequately prepared for the benefit of the students.

A total of 84,361 students in the scientific, literary, commercial, agricultural, industrial, nursing and hotel management streams were registered for the mid-year examinations. Sixty-seven students had their exams cancelled for violating rules or cheating, according to Dr. Obeidat.

The tawjihi students whose examination results were published last week are still to take the end-of-year examination in May, and the Ministry of Education will calculate the final results on the average of the two examinations.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

LOUD RECITAL

★ Loud recital by 'Adi Sahib at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art on Thursday at 8:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Photographic exhibition entitled "To Be or Not to Be — Industry Destroys Nature" at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of abstract art by Mohammad Labadi at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of the works of Lebanese artist Amin Al Basha at Darat Al Fann. Also showing another exhibition entitled "Phase II-Doors and Windows" by Jordanian artist Ghada Dahdaleh and works by contemporary Arab artists.
- ★ Educational works depicting the life of "Voltaire" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of works by Hala Mahayni at the Petra International Hotel in Aqaba.

Aided gunmen loot compound

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U.N. troops leave.

U.N. troops also withdrew from the university compound adjoining the main compound on Wednesday, and abandoned nearby checkpoints.

U.N. civilian personnel pulled out of Galkayo and Bossaso in northeastern Somalia on Tuesday, U.N. spokesman George Bennett said on Wednesday.

Some remain in north Mogadishu, which is under the control of Gen. Aided's arch-rival, self-styled President Ali Mahdi Mohammad, and in Jowhar, north of the capital, but no troops remain outside the capital.

"All U.N. personnel will now be relocated to Mogadishu port and airfield," Mr. Bennett said.

Both are in south Mogadishu, which is mostly controlled by Gen. Aided's militias, but Aghal militias loyal to Mr. Ali Mahdi hold the strategic enclave of Medina just beside the airport.

The security of the U.S. compound had been guaranteed by both Gen. Aided and Mr. Ali Mahdi as well as the Aghal commander in Medina, Musa Sudi Yalaho, but both Mr. Yalaho and

Aided ally Mohammad Qanyare Afrah warned in interviews with AFP that their sides would fight for it if the other side occupied it.

U.S. Ambassador Daniel Simpson said last week that the main faction leaders and more than 50 elders had assured a high-level task force delegation in Mogadishu then that they would guarantee the security of the compound.

As SNA official on Wednesday described it, however, as "a site under our legitimate control."

Both Mr. Afrah and Mr. Yalaho told AFP they considered the airport as the territory of their respective sides, and would fight for it if need be.

In a press conference Wednesday, Mr. Afrah said the militias would "react aggressively" if U.S. troops remained in Mogadishu for more than a week during the final evacuation.

He accused the U.N. force of implying that the U.S. troops would "capture Mogadishu," and said: "We don't want to see U.S. marines in Mogadishu's streets. They must limit their military exercise to the seaport and airfield."

Vegetable oil export dispute settled between Jordan, Iraq

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A dispute between Jordanian exporters and Iraqi importers over Jordanian vegetable oil exports to Iraq has been settled with the mediation of the Amman Chamber of Industry, officials said Wednesday.

"We have found a compromise formula acceptable to both sides, and we expect the exports to resume soon," said Walid Al Khatib, general director of the Amman Chamber of Industry.

Mr. Khatib said the Iraqi side had agreed to raise the price of vegetable oil to \$865 per tonne and was in the process of amending the related letters of credit.

The problem arose when the vegetable oil processors and exporters found themselves unable to execute orders of about 63,000 tonnes from Iraq at the prices originally agreed upon since international prices of raw material — mainly Malaysian palm oil — shot up dramatically in the past few months.

Jordanian exporters had received orders of about 75,000 tonnes of vegetable oil. The letters of credit provided for partial shipments but were non-negotiable as

far as prices were concerned. The exporters — four major companies — shipped about 15,000 tonnes before the hike in international prices of palm oil increased their cost of output.

The exporters sought to renegotiate the prices, but in view of the conditions of the letters of credit they were unable to do so. The Iraqi importers insisted on the prices that were originally agreed upon, and hence the deadlock.

The price of Malaysian palm oil meanwhile went up from \$500 a tonne. The Iraqi government, pressed because of the shortage of oil in the country, bought 10,000 tonnes at a higher price to meet urgent demands, but the dispute was not settled.

Iraqi government officials and importers raised the deadlock with a delegation headed by Khaldoun Abu Hassan, president of the Amman Chamber of Industry, which visited Iraq early this month, and requested the chamber's intervention to resolve the dispute.

The Iraqi side argued that any substantial rise in prices for vegetable oil was unacceptable because of the resultant increase in the market prices in Iraq.

After intense discussions

with representatives of the exporting firms, the Amman Chamber of Industry proposed the compromise and it was accepted by both sides.

"There was enough goodwill on both sides to resolve the problem and we expect the orders to be executed soon," said Mr. Khatib of the chamber.

The solution to the problem was seen as crucial to Jordanian industries' efforts to rebuild their relations with Iraq after a period of relative absence from the Iraqi market as a result of difficult business conditions posed by the four-year-old sanctions against that country.

Several Jordanian business delegations visited Iraq in the past six months, and some of the traders who were in the teams said they were told that Jordanian exporters have to adjust their business practices and banking requirements if they hoped to do business with Iraq.

However, most others said the Iraqi side was highly positive to Jordanian efforts to resume the Kingdom's role as a key supplier to Iraq. But, they said, the Iraqis were asking for "more patience and cooperation" from the exporters until the sanctions are eased/lifted.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jordan, Israel to begin mail exchange

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanians and Israelis will be able to exchange mail starting Feb. 6 in implementation of the provisions of the Jordan-Israel peace accord signed on Oct. 26, according to an announcement by the Ministry of Post and Communications Wednesday.

The announcement said the ministry also made the necessary arrangements for the exchange of postal services between Jordan and the self-rule areas of Palestine in accordance with the Jan. 26 agreement between the two sides signed in Amman by the concerned ministers.

Qaraeen tipped to head meteorology

AMMAN (J.T.) — A source at the department of meteorology said that three senior

department officials are being reviewed for the post of director general for the department. Among the candidates is senior staff member Amin Qaraeen, who is tipped to be next in line for the job. The next director general and deputy will follow current Director General Ali Abanda and Deputy Director Rafiq Shaker, who both will retire after the expiration of their contracts this month.

Trade minister meets Lebanese, French envoys

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb Wednesday met Lebanese Ambassador to Jordan William Habib and discussed Jordanian-Lebanese cooperation in industry and trade affairs. The minister later met French Ambassador Bernard Bajole and discussed issues of common concern to France and Jordan.

Team studies U.S.-financed Egyptian project in water

AMMAN (Petra) — In-

plementation of a U.S.-financed project to improve the quality of water in Jordan, a team from the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, led by Secretary General Mohammad Bani Hani, last week visited Egypt where they examined a similar project being established in different parts of the country.

Dr. Bani Hani said that the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is financing the \$11 million, four-year project in the Kingdom.

The team has studied the Egyptian project, also financed by USAID, during a

week-long tour of its sites, and hopes to benefit from the Egyptian experience here, said Dr. Bani Hani.

The ministry plans to set up a special centre for the development of human resources involved in the water sector, following the example of Egypt in order to ensure the success of the scheme, said Dr. Bani Hani.

He said the project, which has been in progress for one year, aims at helping the ministry to draw up a water policy, deal with industrial pollution, protect the environment, carry out artificial feeding of water in arid areas, execute awareness

programmes on conserving water, and establishing a data bank to provide water-related information.

The ministry's awareness programmes are already under way and being implemented in cooperation with voluntary groups and the Ministry of Education, but other parts of the projects are still in the pipeline, said Dr. Bani Hani.

During the tour in Egypt, Dr. Bani Hani added, the Jordanian team met with the Egyptian minister of public works and water resources among other Egyptian officials, and discussed cooperation in water affairs.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

A large investment holding company seeking to promote economic development in Palestine through investing in industrial, infrastructure and tourism projects is looking to recruit for the following positions:

1) SENIOR FINANCIAL ANALYST:

- Must have a university degree in Finance or Accounting from a reputable university. MBA in business or related fields is a definite plus.
- Must have at least 10 years of experience in financial analysis, feasibility studies, corporate finance, and thorough knowledge of computer based financial modelling and forecasting techniques.

2) INVESTMENT ANALYST:

- Must have a university degree in Finance or Accounting from a reputable university.
- Must have at least 5 years of experience in financial analysis, feasibility studies, corporate finance, and thorough knowledge of computer based investment analysis techniques.

The positions are based in Amman, although applicants must be willing to relocate to Palestine in the future.

Applicants should send their CV's to the following address:

Investment Department
P.O.Box 6181, Amman 11118, Jordan
or contact Mrs. Faten at telephone no. 647837

AIDS vaccine created that self-destructs on cue

WASHINGTON (Agencies)

Scientists searching for a safe AIDS vaccine said Tuesday they have created one with a built-in time bomb—a gene that will cause it to self-destruct on cue.

Researchers believe the most effective AIDS vaccine is likely to be a live virus, which will prime the body to mount a spirited reaction to HIV. Many, though, worry about giving healthy people even a weakened form of the AIDS virus, since it might cause cancer, immune suppression or even AIDS.

So now a team from the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases has come up with a novel strategy: A live but weakened AIDS virus that can be killed off once it does its job.

A team headed by Dr. Susan Teich created a form of the AIDS virus that carries an extra gene taken from the Herpes virus. Because of this gene, cells that become infected with the virus can be selectively destroyed with Ganciclovir, a widely available herpes medicine.

"We attempted to improve the safety of an HIV vaccine using a suicide gene," said Dr. Stephen M. Smith, who presented the results at an AIDS meeting sponsored by the American Society for Microbiology.

Dr. Smith said the approach looks promising in the test tube. But much more testing, including extensive use in monkeys, will be necessary before it can be tried on people. He said human studies are at least three years away.

"It's a terrifically imaginative approach and one we need to follow closely," said Dr. William Paul, director of the U.S. office of AIDS research.

While other experts at the conference found the idea

intriguing, some were sceptical.

Dr. Ronald Desrosiers of the New England Regional Primate Centre is one of the country's leading advocates of a live AIDS vaccine. He is developing versions that will produce a chronic infection, but not sickness, because one or more of their genes have been crippled.

Dr. Desrosiers said he doubts the suicide gene will work. HIV is likely to mutate quickly inside the body and lose the extra gene, thereby making it unkillable, he contends.

"When the virus has a gene that it doesn't need, it will just spit it out," Dr. Desrosiers said.

Dr. Lawrence Corey of the University of Washington, a herpes expert, raised the possibility the vaccine might not work in people who already have herpes. He worried that the body might kill off an AIDS virus that carries a herpes gene before it can trigger an immune response.

In testing so far, Dr. Smith said, researchers have shown that Ganciclovir can destroy the virus-infected blood cells if given quickly after the cells are exposed. But within 48 hours, the virus has already begun to shed its extra herpes gene through mutation.

He said the next step is to re-engineer the virus, putting the extra gene in a spot that is less likely to be dropped through random mutation.

Dr. Paul questioned whether one exposure to the weakened virus will be enough to produce long-lasting immunity against AIDS. Dr. Smith said it may be necessary to give booster shots from time to time.

Meanwhile, AIDS is now the leading cause of death among Americans aged 25 to 44, according to new federal statistics that show HIV infection spreading fastest among women and minorities.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said Tuesday that HIV infection surpassed unintentional injuries as the 25-44 age group's leading cause of death in 1994, when more than 80,000 new AIDS cases were reported.

Other leading causes of death were cancer, heart disease and murder and suicide. The number of new AIDS cases in 1994 were about a fifth of all U.S. cases reported since 1981 and provide the clearest depiction to date of the magnitude and nature of the epidemic.

"The HIV curve is going straight up like the side of a mountain," said Dr. John Ward, the CDC's AIDS surveillance chief. But despite the rise of the epidemic, Dr. Ward said the public has shown increasing signs of complacency.

"We were on this sort of war footing for the first five to 10 years of the epidemic where we had this fear as celebrities developed AIDS etc.," he said.

"But just because it's now becoming familiar doesn't mean we should accept it as a part of life that people are going to die of AIDS. There's a lot we can do about it. We can actually prevent it, which is not what you can say about a lot of things, like brain cancer," Dr. Ward said.

An estimated one million Americans are infected by the HIV virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). Since 1981, more than 441,500 cases of full-blown AIDS have been reported. Women now account for 18.1 per cent of all reported AIDS cases, up from 16.2 per cent in 1993.

A bigger increase occurred among blacks, who accounted for 39 per cent of new HIV infections last year—up from 36.1 per cent in 1993. The rate for Hispanics increased to 18.7 per cent from 17.7 per cent.

Murayama hurt by poor disaster management

TOKYO (Agencies)

The Japanese government's clumsy handling of the Kobe earthquake disaster has sapped popular support for Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama's cabinet, according to a newspaper poll released Wednesday.

In its first poll since Mr. Murayama admitted his government was slow to respond to the tragedy, the Yomiuri Shimbun found public backing had slipped to the point where those disapproving of the cabinet outnumbered supporters.

It was the first such negative result for Mr. Murayama since a survey in July last year, shortly after he became prime minister at the head of a three-way coalition government.

In the weekend survey covering 3,000 voters, 44.7 per cent of respondents disapproved of Mr. Murayama's government, up 5.3 percentage points from a survey in December. The support rate was down by 4.0 points from the previous poll to 40.8 per cent.

The Yomiuri said the drop in Murayama's popularity could be traced to his poor handling of disaster relief operations after the Kobe earthquake on Jan. 17, Japan's worst natural disaster since World War II.

The government has faced sifting criticism over delays in dispatching relief to the victims and responding to offers of help from other countries.

Until the latest sounding, support for Mr. Murayama had always exceeded the disapproval rating, except for last July's survey.

As of Wednesday, the official death toll from the central Japan earthquake stood at 5,102, with 11 people still listed as missing. Officials in Kobe city have said the figure could reach more than 5,400.

as about 300 deaths have yet to be officially reported to police.

Russia shipped 4,500 winter coats and other humanitarian aid to Japan in a goodwill gesture Tuesday for victims of the Jan. 17 earthquake.

The aid shipment also included 1,000 blankets, 1,000 pairs of gloves, and sheets, towels and disposable dishes. It will go to refugees of the quake, which ravaged the Japanese port city of Kobe and killed more than 5,000 people.

"It's a gesture of our support and concern toward other needy nations," said Anatoly Streletsov, spokesman for the Ministry for Emergency Situations.

The ministry has been under extra strain recently, sending humanitarian aid to tens of thousands of Russia's own refugees in and around war-torn Chechnya. The region also received humanitarian aid from the United Nations.

"This small shipment (to Japan) cannot even be compared to the tonnes of goods we're sending to Chechnya," Mr. Streletsov said.

Japan had previously been reluctant to accept outside assistance for quake victims, turning down offers including one to anchor an American aircraft carrier in Kobe Bay to house injured and homeless.

But the Japanese embassy in Moscow expressed appreciation for the Russian aid Tuesday.

Hundreds of thousands of quake refugees are living in unheated shelters set up in gymnasiums, schools and public buildings in Kobe.

Meanwhile, Washington's top disaster relief official said Wednesday Japan and the United States should share their experiences in recovery



Quake victims carry out belongings from their collapsed homes in Kobe city. It is now 15 days since the massive earthquake struck, and the latest toll stands at 5,102, with 11 persons missing (AFP photo)

from major earthquakes but refused to comment on Japan's slow response.

James Lee Witt, director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), said his purpose in Japan was not to pass judgment on the Japanese government's record in the Jan. 17 Kobe earthquake.

"We are here to share our experience from an earthquake similar to the one which you (Japan) had," Mr. Witt told a news conference.

"We are here to help you with the recovery, how fast you can achieve recovery, from the disaster... we are not here to see how fast the

response was."

Mr. Witt's team of nine U.S. disaster specialists was sent to Japan under an agreement between President Bill Clinton and Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama soon after the Kobe earthquake.

FEMA directed relief efforts after the January 1994 earthquake that rocked Northridge, California.

A Foreign Ministry official who attended a meeting between Mr. Witt and Foreign Minister Yohsei Kono told reporters Mr. Witt said swift coordination between central and local authorities was a key factor in successfully handling the Northridge case.

U.S. panel votes to cut U.N. peacekeeping funds

WASHINGTON (R)

A split House International Relations Committee Tuesday voted to limit U.S. contributions to U.N. peacekeeping over White House protests that it would cripple the world body's peacekeeping forces.

The Republican majority pushed the legislation through on a partisan vote of 23 to 18 even though the administration's foreign policy and defence team had registered strong objections.

During a contentious debate, the Republicans united against several Democratic

amendments which sought to preserve the president's ability to deploy U.S. troops in U.N. operations as he saw fit.

The United Nations legislation is one of the top items on the agenda of the new Republican majority in the House and its prospects for rapid passage in the full House are good.

The measure would essentially pass on Washington's cost for voluntary peacekeeping—currently running at about \$1.2 billion a year—to the United Nations, whose total budget for peacekeep-

ing is about \$3.6 billion.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher issued dire warnings on the future of U.N. peacekeeping in his appearance before the committee last week.

"The result would be financial chaos. Under certain circumstances, it would threaten to end U.N. peacekeeping overnight," he said.

He predicted that once the United States limited its funds, other major contributors, namely Japan and NATO allies, would do the

same.

At the end of last year, U.S. troops were involved in U.N. peacekeeping and humanitarian operations in Iraq, Bosnia, Macedonia, the Adriatic Sea, Rwanda and the Caribbean. But of the more than 63,000 U.N. peacekeepers on 17 missions around the world, less than two per cent are American.

Republican efforts to trim U.S. involvement in U.N. peacekeeping were fuelled by the deaths in 1993 of 18 U.S. soldiers on a U.N. peacekeeping mission in Somalia.

Austrian government in crisis

VIENNA (AFP)

Austria's coalition government of Social Democrats and Conservatives was on the brink of collapse due to differences over the country's budget, politicians and national newspapers said Wednesday.

The country's most widely read newspaper, Kronenzeitung, reported "coalition near to breaking point" while "government crisis" was the headline in the large circulation Kurier newspaper amid a dispute over proposed tax increases within the government, which

started a new term of office only two months ago.

Erhard Busek, vice-chancellor and president of the ruling Conservative People's Party (OeVP), said the government had a 50/50 chance of falling.

Finance Minister Ferdinand Lacina of the Social Democratic Party (SPOE), which has shared power with the Conservatives since 1987, has threatened to resign if the 1995 budget deficit surpasses 100 billion schillings (about \$10 billion). Without public spending cuts, the deficit is

expected to reach 160 or 170 billion schillings.

An austerity plan to cut spending by between 250 and 350 billion schillings (\$25-30 billion) over the next four years has provoked outrage from the trade unions, who are closely linked to the Social Democrats. The spending plan was not mentioned during the last election campaign.

The unions have complained that the plan will affect important social spending and damage the poorest in society.

Diana's wet look draws mixed reviews

LONDON (R)

Princess Diana's bold, sleeked-back hairstyle, revealed at a New York fashion gala, drew mixed reviews Wednesday after she arrived back in Britain from her one-day visit.

Princess Diana dazzled America's top fashion designers when she attended the Council of Fashion Designers annual awards dinner Monday in a slinky, low cut dress sporting the wet vamp look made famous by Madonna.

New York fashion experts raved about the new look favoured by fashion models and film stars but reaction in Britain was more muted.

"The new style is very Madonna-ish. I think she looks lovely," hair expert Jackie Wadson told the Sun newspaper.

"Gone was the shy shopgirl... replaced instead by a confident female version of Wall Street's Gordon Gekko," said London's Evening Standard.

But not everyone was pleased with Princess Diana's new image.

"The old hairstyle was frumpy, but at least it was pretty. This one makes her look like a victim," said Kate Reardon, style director of Tatler magazine, was quoted as saying.

Jeff Banks, presenter of Britain's The Clothes Show, "was also not impressed." "She has a lovely face but her nose is quite prominent and with a feature like that it is not a good idea to grease the hair back," he told the Daily Mail.

Britain's top-selling Sun newspaper even launched a phone-in for readers to express their views.

Only Princess Diana's hairdresser Sam McKnight knows for sure why she decided to try the new look but some British tabloids were speculating that she could be changing her short, softly-permed hairstyle for a sexier image in preparation for a permanent move to the Un-



Britain's Princess of Wales carries an award from the Council of Fashion Designers of America to present to Elizabeth Tilberis, the editor-in-chief of Harper's Bazaar, at the award ceremony in New York (AFP photo)

ited States.

Even as Princess Diana presented an award to Elizabeth Tilberis, editor of Harper's Bazaar magazine, at the fashion dinner a member of the audience shouted "move to New York."

The 33-year-old estranged wife of Prince Charles has made four visits to the United States within a year but Buckingham Palace dismissed rumours that she was planning to make it her second home.

Princess Diana's navy designer dress also revealed a fuller figure, dispelling recent reports that the estranged wife of the heir-to-the throne had been battling against a bout of the slimming disorder

bulimia.

One newspaper described her as "broad-shouldered and full-armed" and looking positively beefy, proof that her frequent visits to a London gym have paid off with a healthier physique.

During her New York visit, as the guest of publishing tycoon Randolph Hearst and his wife Veronica, Princess Diana also visited children suffering from AIDS at a Harlem hospital.

On Monday she leaves for a four-day visit to Japan, where she plans to tour a children's hospital and old people home. Aides were still unsure whether she would be allowed to meet victims of last month's earthquake.

Simpson prosecutors to continue character attack

LOS ANGELES (Agencies)

After a day of courtroom fireworks in which O.J. Simpson was said to have beaten and terrorised his wife, with no mention that he allegedly murdered her, prosecutors Wednesday were set to continue their onslaught on the football legend's character.

Prosecutors introduced police witnesses Tuesday who testified that Simpson beat, slapped and made his then-wife Nicole fear he would kill her during a Jan. 1, 1989, fight triggered by his having sex with a female employee at their home.

The first witness scheduled to be brought to the stand Wednesday was Ron Shipp, a former policeman who became a spousal abuse expert and counselled both Simpson and his then-wife after the 1989 incident.

But at the end of Tuesday's proceedings, defence attorney Carl Douglas complained that the prosecution might try to get Mr. Shipp to talk about a conversation he had with Simpson the day after the murders.

Mr. Douglas said the two talked about Simpson taking a polygraph test and added: "There are allegations in a book about which I'm aware that suggests that Mr. Simpson discussed some sort of a dream with Mr. Shipp."

In the book, Raging Heart, by author Sheila Weller, a man fitting Mr. Shipp's description but called only "Leo" said Simpson told him: "They (police) asked me to take a lie detector test. I don't want to take it... cause I had some dreams about killing her."

The book also quotes three lie detector experts as saying that often people who say they had bad dreams about a victim are covering up their own involvement in the crime.

The defence filed a motion to suppress much of Mr. Shipp's testimony. Arguments on the motion were to be heard Wednesday outside the jury's presence.



This still frame taken from a television broadcast shows a photograph of Nicole Brown Simpson entered into evidence at the O.J. Simpson double-murder trial. The photo, from an Jan. 1, 1989 incident in which O.J. Simpson pleaded no contest to spousal battery, highlights the cut lip and bruises on her face. The photo was presented during testimony by Los Angeles Police Detective John Edwards, who answered Mrs. Simpson's 1989 call for help (AFP photo)

fame on the playing field into a career as sportscaster, actor and TV pitchman, is on trial for the brutal stabbing death murders of Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman, on June 12, 1994—charges to which he has pleaded not guilty.

The word murder, and Goldman's name, however, were never uttered before the jury Tuesday as the prosecution introduced its first witnesses in possibly the most sensational and certainly the most publicised trial ever held in the United States.

Instead, prosecutors sought to reveal the dark side of the man who has become known to an adoring public as "O.J., the nice guy," by portraying him as a habitual wife beater.

The jury also saw Tuesday a different side of the other "nice guy" in the trial, lead defence attorney Johnnie Cochran, who had sought to beguile and win the panelists with his charm and conversational attitude during his

opening statement.

Mr. Cochran took the gloves off Tuesday, attacking the testimony of police witnesses in aggressive tones previously unheard by jurors.

The most dramatic testimony Tuesday came from detective John Edwards, who was a patrolman when he answered a police emergency call for help at the Simpson house early on Jan. 1, 1989 and discovered an hysterical, partly-clad Nicole Brown Simpson running from the bushes, screaming: "He's going to kill me."

When she later calmed down and went to a police station with Mr. Edwards, she said the fight started because Simpson had sex with one of two women employees in the house "before she went to bed with him" that night.

The woman was not identified in court, and Mr. Edwards said he did not mention the reason for the fight in his report to spare Simpson bad publicity.

On cross examination, Mr.

Cochran threw off the veneer of gentility, pointing out that Mr. Edwards had failed to interview anyone else in the house present at the time, including the housekeeper who had told him nothing was amiss.

He also attacked the officer over polaroid photographs taken later at the west Los Angeles police station which purported to show Nicole's injuries a cut lip, a black eye, a swollen cheek bone and slap marks.

Mr. Cochran insisted that the jury looked at the photographs, rather than the images of them shown on a large screen in the high-tech, computerised courtroom, saying they did not show the injuries described by Mr. Edwards.

But with his graphic description of a battered Nicole, Mr. Edwards set the stage for a prosecution portrait of a celebrated public figure with a dark private side.

Johnny Hallyday honoured by France

CANNES (AP)

Longtime French rocker Johnny Hallyday admits it's ironic the French government is honouring him with the "Officer of Arts and Letters" title even though he just recorded an all-English album.

Culture Minister Jacques Toubon, while bantling the increasing use of English in France, formally gave Hallyday the honour late Tuesday night after the singer gave a concert at the Midem Music Trade Fair. "It is strange that he decorates me and I sing English," the 51-year-old Hallyday told a news conference earlier Tuesday.

He proves that languages have no borders. But Hallyday's new Rought Town album comes at a time when the French government is doing all it can to chip away at the dominance of Anglo-American music in France.

The French government plans to enforce a new law beginning next year that will require that French groups make up at least 40 per cent of radio play. Another law requires that all advertising in a foreign language have a French translation.

Mr. Toubon defended the radio quota and his decorating Hallyday. "I also decorate Anglo-American singers," he told a separate news conference. At the 29th Midem, a weeklong fair attended by nearly 10,000 industry representatives and journalists worldwide, Mr. Toubon proposed taxing all music producers in France to support struggling French artists.

Directors buy Shepperton studios for £12m

LONDON (R)—Two British brothers who became Hollywood directors bought the legendary Shepperton Film Studios Wednesday for £12 million (\$19.1 million) and promised to attract blockbuster movies.

Ridley Scott, director of Alien and Blade Runner, and his brother Tony, who made Top Gun and Beverly Hills Cop II, said they wanted to transform Shepperton into a top world studio. This will be a major boost to Britain's flagging film industry.

In its heyday, Shepperton produced huge international hits like Oliver and The Guns of Navarone. A more recent success was Four Weddings and a Funeral. Top British film directors and stars, frustrated by the lack of opportunities at home, have migrated to Hollywood. British actors and actresses like Anthony Hopkins and Emma Thompson have scooped coveted Oscars.

The Scott brothers said they planned to spend about £10 million (\$15.9 million) over the next five years expanding facilities at Shepperton. They would actively promote Shepperton in both the United States and Europe.

Mr. Dini who obtained the support of leftists, centrists and the federalist Northern League, won the vote in the Senate (upper house) by 191 to 17 with two abstentions.

Only 210 of the 325 senators took part in the ballot after the centre-right Freedom Alliance coalition of former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, who resigned on Dec. 22, decided not to vote at all.

The coalition formally abstained in a confidence vote which Mr. Dini won in the

'Give nuisance sex-callers a shrill earful'

MUNICH, Germany (AFP)

Women who suffer sexual harassment from anonymous telephone calls are recommended to give the nuisance callers a shrill riposte to set their ears ringing for days, the Bavarian Criminal Investigation Department said many women felt uneasy when the phone rang. But instead of just hanging up when bothered by callers of the "heavy breather" variety, they should blow hard through a whistle into the mouthpiece.

30% of Filipino women report abuse

MANILA (AFP)

Thirty per cent of Filipino women reported being physically abused by their husbands or someone close to them, according to the results of a Health Department survey obtained here Wednesday.

The survey of 8,481 women, aged 15 to 49, conducted in 1993 but only made public more than a year later, also found that 12 per cent of the women reported being abused even during pregnancy. Three per cent of the women surveyed said they had been raped or forced to have sex with a man but only 10 per cent of those raped said they had sought help from law-enforcers afterwards.

The survey found that abuse was highest among women 20 years old and below—15 per cent—and lowest among the well-educated at six per cent.

But with his graphic description of a battered Nicole, Mr. Edwards set the stage for a prosecution portrait of a celebrated public figure with a dark private side.



Floods bring danger to the River Rhine which can only be navigated by tugboats

Floods bring

AMSTERDAM (R)—Battered by Western Europe's "floods of the century," the Netherlands faced fresh peril Wednesday as ancient dikes threatened to give way and swamp the vulnerable, low-lying nation.

There was no respite for the Dutch as vast floods that engulfed much of Europe for the past week eased in France, Belgium and Germany.

Thousands more people were told to flee their homes as the Netherlands' biggest peace-time evacuation. The week's flooding in the south and east of the country has already made 250,000 people homeless.

Europe's bloated rivers again churned water through dams and farmland, undermining the vast system of dykes.

More than two thirds of Dutch people live below sea level, behind their ancient network of dikes along rivers and coasts.

Water pouring in from neighbouring countries is threatening to erode the dikes in central Netherlands lies beneath, placing hundreds of thousands of people at jeopardy.

"A dike is like a child's sandcastle on a beach. It is most likely to be undermined by water from below," said Jan Rooloff in Nijmegen.

The danger of a collapse was the longer the water pressure is maintained.

Britain said a squadron of six army helicopters in east

Italy's Dini

ROME (R)—Italy's Prime Minister Lamberto Dini easily won a parliamentary vote of confidence Wednesday that gave his new "government of experts" full powers to proceed with a limited programme of reforms, official results showed.

Mr. Dini who obtained the support of leftists, centrists and the federalist Northern League, won the vote in the Senate (upper house) by 191 to 17 with two abstentions.

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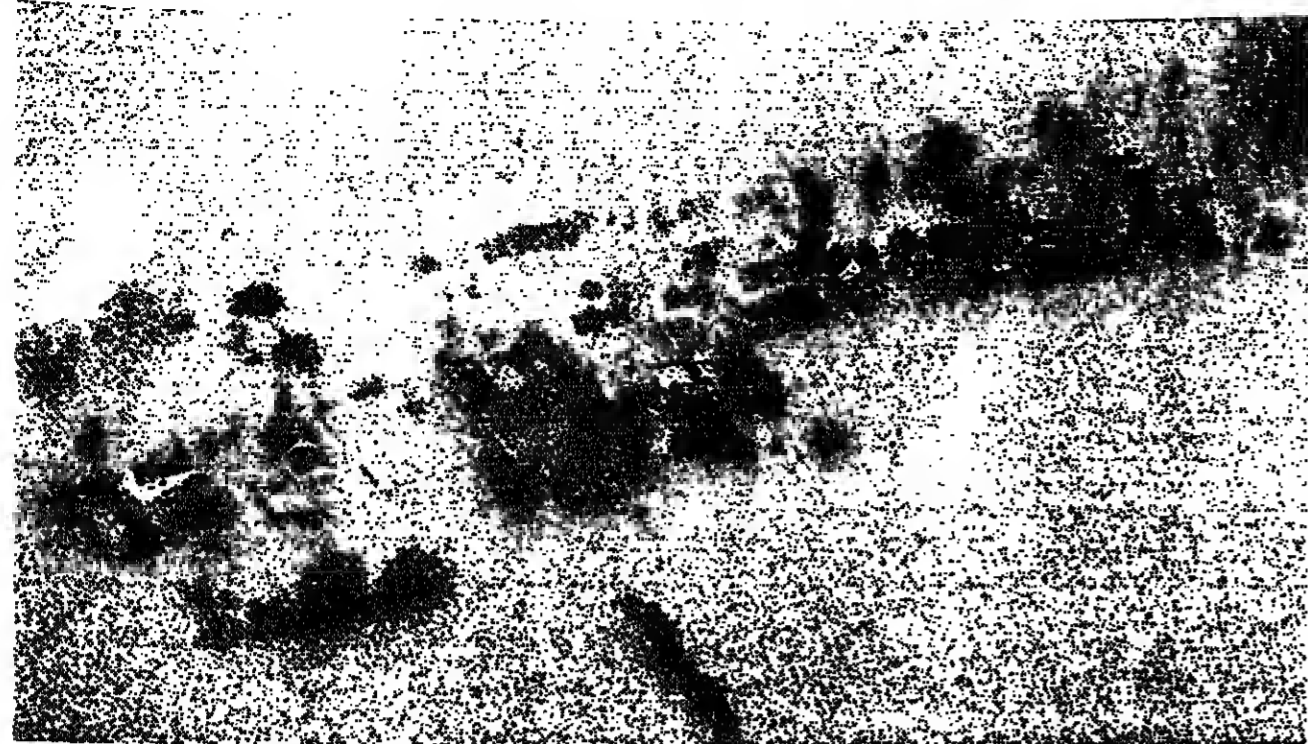
The coalition formally abstained in a confidence vote which Mr. Dini won in the

Dublin prem

DUBLIN (R)—Ireland and Britain strongly denied a London newspaper report Wednesday that they were drafting a peace plan to bring Ireland and Northern Ireland closer than at any time since partition 70 years ago.

Irish Prime Minister John Bruton and British officials said the London Times report could damage 13-month-old efforts by London and Dublin to settle the Northern Ireland conflict.

The report caused shockwaves in Belfast, London and Dublin.



Cologne's suburb of Kasselberg is reduced to an island on the River Rhine which can only be reached by boat as the

heavy floods continue to keep the water-levels high in northern Germany (AFP photo)

Floods bring new threat to Dutch, battering dikes

AMSTERDAM (R) — Battered by Western Europe's "floods of the century" the Netherlands faced fresh peril Wednesday as ancient dikes threatened to give way and swamp the vulnerable, low-lying nation.

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Britain said a squadron of six army helicopters in east

England had been placed on six-hour standby ready to fly to Holland to assist in flood relief if authorities request help.

Rainstorms combined with melting snow caused the worst floods this century in Europe over the past week, but a pause allowed water levels to drop in France, Germany and Belgium.

Just east of the world's highest port at Rotterdam, up to 10,000 people were told to leave their homes in East Gornineveld and Boven-Hardinxveld, Wednesday morning.

The two towns lie close to the River Waal in the central Netherlands. Further east on the same river, a dike protecting the village of Ochten some 20 kilometres from Nijmegen was starting to crumble, prompting officials to order an immediate evacuation. Reuter correspondent Lucas Van Grinsven reported from the scene.

Officials said the whole polder (land reclaimed from the sea), home to some 40,000 people, could be flooded soon.

Water levels on the swollen rivers that criss-cross the central regions, appeared to be peaking, but experts said a build up of pressure continued to threaten dike defences.

Dutch Transport Minister Annemarie Jolitsma said German building was partly responsible for making the mighty Rhine River overflow for the second time in 13

months. "Part of the problem is that the flow of the Rhine has been changed through building work," she told German radio.

In western and northeastern France, floodwaters were slowly giving up ground and first surveys put the cost of flood damage at up to three billion francs (\$570 million).

In France's Brittany region, water levels were gradually easing off especially in the worst-hit Ile-Et-Vilaine Department and officials said rivers should return to normal levels by Sunday if the waters continued to recede at the same pace.

The Meuse River, which flooded the industrial town of Charleville-Mexieres and forced the evacuation of 3,000 people, started to pull back after the rain stopped early Tuesday.

But in affected areas across France, some 250,000 people were still without electricity because of the floods. Sixteen people have been killed in France by the floods, rain and winds in recent days.

Several roads were reopened in Belgium, where the floods have claimed six lives over the past week, but weather forecasters warned against too much optimism.

"In most areas the waters are going down, but we still have to be very careful. The crisis is not over yet," a spokesman for the Interior Ministry's Weather Crisis Centre said.

More rain is predicted over

the next few days, but meteorologists said it would not be so devastating.

In Cologne, one of the worst affected areas, the Rhine was ebbing by the hour after cresting at three times its normal depth Monday, but a catastrophe alarm in the town of Kleve near the Dutch border was still in force because the danger of a dike the Netherlands breaking.

The German cabinet meeting Wednesday proposed to earmark 30 million marks (\$20 million) to subsidise low-interest loans for flood repairs.

Families in northern England were forced from their homes by record floods, which also created problems for thousands of motorists.

The European Commission agreed Wednesday to increase its immediate aid to victims of floods ravaging Western Europe to 1.5 million ECUs (\$1.8 million).

Commission spokesman Nikolaus Van Der Pas said the aid, an increase of 1.2 million ECUs (\$1.45 million) on aid already pledged, had been agreed at a morning meeting and would be directed towards the Red Cross.

He told reporters the commission had also agreed to set up a working group to study how to deal with such cross border problems as flooding.

Commissioners were also looking at ways to help the situation in such sectors as regional aid, research and agriculture, he said.

Italy's Dini wins Senate confidence vote

ROME (R) — Italy's Prime Minister Lamberto Dini easily won a parliamentary vote of confidence Wednesday that gave him new "government of experts" full powers to proceed with a limited programme of reforms, official results showed.

Mr. Dini who obtained the support of leftists, centrists and the federalist Northern League, won the vote in the Senate (upper house) by 191 to 17 with two abstentions.

Only 210 of the 325 senators took part in the ballot after the centre-right Freedom Alliance coalition of former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, who resigned on Dec. 22, decided not to vote at all.

The coalition formally abstained in a confidence vote which Mr. Dini won in the

Chamber of Deputies (lower house) last week but a similar abstention Wednesday would have counted as a 'no' vote under Senate rules.

The Freedom Alliance has said it will support Mr. Dini's programme, which includes a supplementary budget for 1995, on a case-by-case basis while continuing to press for early general elections.

Meanwhile Mr. Berlusconi faces a fresh probe by anti-graft magistrates, newspapers reported Wednesday, as the media mogul's spokesman said he may have lost the will to lead Italy again.

"I'm not sure that if he had the chance and the opportunity of going back to the prime minister's office he would do it," spokesman Jas Gawronski said.

Unsources press reports,

which could not be confirmed, said "clean hands" investigators in Milan believed they may have grounds to proceed against the billionaire businessman on suspicion of running a slush fund for under-the-table payments.

Milan's chief prosecutor Francesco Saverio Borrelli denied Tuesday that Mr. Berlusconi, who resigned as prime minister last December, had been officially told he was under investigation.

But the newspapers said the "clean hands" office had taken first step of registering Mr. Berlusconi's name on a list of people they may formally investigate for alleged false accounting.

The reports, which appeared in all leading dailies, said Mr. Berlusconi's young-

ger brother and business associate Paolo and Salvatore Sciascia, and executive at Berlusconi's Fininvest holding company, were also on the list.

All three men are already under investigation for suspected corruption over payments totalling 330 million lire (\$205,000) which magistrates allege three Fininvest companies used to bribe Finance Police in return for favourable tax audits.

Mr. Berlusconi, who was advised of that investigation last November, has denied any knowledge of the payments at the time they were made.

He said after he was questioned last month that magistrates did not have any evidence to implicate him

Dublin premier slams N. Ireland report as damaging

DUBLIN (R) — Ireland and Britain strongly denied a London newspaper report Wednesday that they were drafting a peace plan to bring Ireland and Northern Ireland closer than at any time since partition 70 years ago.

Irish Prime Minister John Bruton and British officials said the London Times report could damage 13-month-old efforts by London and Dublin to settle the Northern Ireland conflict.

The report caused shockwaves in Belfast, London and Dublin.

In London, Britain's Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew termed the report "absolute rubbish" and a senior government official said the account was "clearly extremely unhelpful to the peace process."

Mr. Bruton said: "Any selective leak is inherently wrong and misleading." He argued that the Times story could damage "the entire process towards peace and reconciliation."

The Times published what it said was a leak from a Dublin source of a so-called framework document the two governments have been trying to agree for several months as the next step of

their joint peace effort for the British province.

It said the two governments were poised to agree a deal which would establish cross-border economic bodies between Northern Ireland and Ireland with radical executive powers, including a right to negotiate with the European Union in Brussels.

The prospect spread alarm among Northern Ireland's Protestant Unionist legislators who fear that Britain and Ireland are pushing Northern Ireland towards reunification by stealth under the guise of their peace plan.

They fear that any Dublin involvement in Northern Ireland's affairs might herald joint sovereignty between Ireland and Britain over the province London partitioned from the rest of the island seven decades ago to Protestant majority.

"This is completely unacceptable... If the government endorses this, there is no question of us being able to maintain any sort of relationship with them — in fact quite the reverse," the senior British official said.

The Times story capped several weeks of purported leaks of the framework document which both Britain and Ireland acknowledge is taking a long time to finalise because of the complexity of

the constitutional issues involved.

The two governments are expected to amend rival constitutional claims to the province in the framework to underpin efforts to persuade people to find their own solution to the conflict.

Meanwhile soldiers Wednesday began demolishing a British army base in Northern Ireland, the first to go since the start of the Irish Republican Army ceasefire five months.

An army spokesman in Belfast said it would take several weeks to dismantle the Kiltirk Base on the Irish border at Lisburn, County Antrim.

He said the base originated as a vehicle border check point in the early 1980s and gradually developed into the sophisticated base it is today.

"It's now a patrol base from which movements of vehicles are monitored across the border, from which patrols move," said the spokesman.

After a recent refurbishment of two other bases in the area, he said: "It was decided really that we don't need this particular base at this point in time."

Ecuador, Peru disagree over truce in border war

QUITO (Agencies) — Ecuador and Peru were at odds Wednesday over the timing of a ceasefire in their five-day-old border war, despite appeals from international mediators for a quick settlement of the conflict.

There were no reports of fighting Tuesday along the Cehapa River, in a disputed 78-kilometre stretch of remote jungle area that has been the scene of frequent border clashes for more than three decades.

Ecuadorian President Sixto Duran Ballen told a press conference late Tuesday that he was willing to negotiate "after a ceasefire," while Peru wanted to wait for the outcome of internationally mediated peace talks which began earlier in the day in Rio De Janeiro.

In Lima, Foreign Minister Efraim Goldenberg said Peru had not agreed to a ceasefire announced in Quito but held out hope that the negotiations in Rio could lead to a "suspension of military operations."

In Rio De Janeiro, Argentina, Brazil, Chile and the United States — guarantors of a 1942 Rio treaty delineating the border between the two countries — urged both countries to work out a ceasefire and announce it jointly in the coming hours.

Mr. Duran Ballen threatened to recall his deputy foreign minister, Marcelo Fernandez de Cordoba, from the Rio talks if Peru did not agree to the truce.

"The exact time is not important," the president added, "what does matter is that (the ceasefire) be implemented today."

"We cannot talk knowing that our border posts and nearby localities are coming



At a Tuesday press conference, Ecuadorian President Sixto Duran Ballen points to a map showing the area where border clashes with Peruvian forces have taken place. President Duran Ballen said Ecuador, which announced

a unilateral ceasefire earlier Tuesday, will not take part in diplomatic talks in Brazil with the guarantors of the 1942 Rio Protocol unless there is an unconditional ceasefire (AFP photo)

under attack," he said. Mr. Duran Ballen reiterated that his country has the victim of aggression and accused Peru of "occupying territories that belong to Ecuador."

"We want a just solution that respects Ecuador's tract in the Amazon," he said, adding that the Rio Protocol had "amputated 55 per cent of Ecuador's territory."

Ecuador renounced the protocol in 1960.

The meeting Tuesday at Rio's Itamaraty Palace was the first between the two countries since the border dispute flared up Thursday with claims and counter-claims of border attacks by Peru and Ecuador.

Thus far, Ecuador has reported three deaths and six wounded in the fighting along the disputed border through a region on the Amazonian

side of the Andes which is believed to be rich in oil and gold.

Defence Minister Jose Gallardo Roman said Tuesday that an earlier casualty figure of eight deaths had been revised as some missing soldiers had been accounted for.

Mr. Gallardo also said that two Peruvian helicopters were attacked, one of which was destroyed.

Peru has reported killing 30 Ecuadorian troops and acknowledged the deaths of six Peruvians.

The clashes erupted last Thursday after a number of border incidents and were the worst fighting between the two Andean nations since a similar outbreak in 1981.

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter Tuesday stepped into the conflict between Ecuador and Peru by calling for both a ceasefire and international mediation.

In a joint statement with former Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, Mr. Carter expressed concern that South America could revert to its former militarism if hostilities are not resolved soon.

The two men called on the United Nations and the Organisation of American States to support a peace process to be led by Brazil, Argentina, Chile and the United States.

"The negotiating table remains the best place to begin to find a solution that is in everyone's best interests. The use of force will only make solutions more difficult," the statement said.

"We therefore urgently request that both Ecuador and Peru declare a ceasefire and permit an international mediation that will end the crisis and resolve the problem definitively."

U.N. completes Gorazde evacuation

SARAJEVO (R) — A convoy of U.N. ambulances arrived in Sarajevo Wednesday carrying 116 sick or wounded Bosnian Muslims evacuated from the east Bosnian enclave of Gorazde.

The convoy of 18 Norwegian and Canadian U.N. vehicles reached Sarajevo at about midnight after driving for several hours over icy mountain roads from the mountainous Gorazde enclave, which is surrounded by Bosnian Serb forces.

Earlier, U.N. peacekeepers had evacuated 66 Serb patients out of Gorazde to the nearby Serb town of Kopaci as part of a deal between the combatants, U.N. spokesman Major Koos Sol said.

Relatives of the Bosnian Muslim patients waited in the cold for the ambulances to arrive at Sarajevo's main Kosevo Hospital after an evacuation that required laborious negotiations beforehand with Serb authorities.

The evacuation deal marked the first time in the war that rival Bosnian government and Serb faction in the Gorazde area had signed the same agreement.

U.N. officials had described the evacuation as a positive sign of Serb intentions but expressed disappointment that Bosnian Serb negotiators had reneged on earlier promises to reopen roads in Sarajevo to civilian traffic.

Talks between the combatants on the release of prisoners of war and information on missing persons also failed

to produce agreement, U.N. spokesman Gary Coward said.

The setback arose as fighting eased between government troops and Muslim rebels allied to Serbs in the northwestern Bosnian enclave of Bilhac — the worst clashes since a ceasefire was declared across the former Yugoslavia on Jan. 1.

France and Germany made new appeals for peace, with French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe warning that Bosnia could again erupt "in flames."

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, on a brief visit to Sarajevo, urged Serbs to accept a five-nation "contact group" peace plan for Bosnia. He also criticised Croatia for its decision to end the U.N. Protection Force mandate.

"(Bosnian Serb leader Radovan) Karadzic is the only one so far who has refused to accept the peace plan and I appeal to him to accept the peace plan," Mr. Kinkel told a news conference after talks with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic.

Mr. Kinkel said he had urged Croatian President Franjo Tudjman to reverse his decision to eject U.N. peacekeeping troops from his country after their mandate expires on March 31 or risk a renewed war with the Serbs.

"We believe this was the wrong decision for him to take and the wrong signal for him to send out," he said.

In Paris, Mr. Juppe called for an international conference and a summit of the

conflict's main protagonists to save the contact group's peace efforts from deadlock.

"In three months, we risk seeing Bosnia in flames again, and also Serbs and Croats, fighting in Krajina, with the threat of the coagulation spreading to the whole of ex-Yugoslavia."

In Geneva, European Union envoy Lord Owen backed the French proposal. He told a news conference that the outside world could not impose peace on what used to be Yugoslavia unless it was willing to intervene militarily

and dictate a final settlement. The Bosnian Serbs have threatened "unpopular measures" against the United Nations if it tries to reopen an airbase it controls at Tuzla.

Alexander Ivanko denounced the warning, saying it was "completely unacceptable that UNPROFOR is threatened by the Bosnian Serbs."

U.N. authorities have abandoned plans to reopen the base to humanitarian flights, as demanded by the Muslim-led government.

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Protecting children

CHILD ABUSE in Jordan is part of the overall domestic violence phenomenon that is more serious than most people are willing to admit. A few days ago, a young man beat up his two-year old sister to death. The twenty-year old brother told the police that all he did was slap his sister to make her stop crying. He did not intend to kill her, he said. But medical reports will soon determine whether the child died from one slap or from excessive beating. The issue, however, goes beyond determining the amount of violence that led to this tragedy. It brings into focus the habit of using force against children to influence their behaviour. That is an area that itself needs to be urgently addressed along with the sad incident itself.

Many children go on being abused or mistreated without the police or the public ever having the slightest knowledge. What happens in the privacy of many homes would portray a horrific picture of how some children are being treated by their families. Part of the problem lies in the poverty in which so many families find themselves. Inadequate housing and the pressure of life adversely affect the ability of parents to deal humanely with their children. Large families provide also the ideal climate for child abuse since the larger the number of children is the greater is the strain on parents. As long as we have a favourable culture for larger families, hope of providing the children with the necessary degree of love, attention and care diminishes.

To remedy this alarming situation, we need short-term and long-term treatment. The short-term solution necessitates more public awareness of this social ill coupled with a more forceful action by the authorities to protect children from the misguided wrath of their fathers and mothers. This means a stiffer criminal prosecution of all those suspected of abusing their children. The long-term solution would call for deeper education focusing on the shortcomings of big families from an economic, social and mental perspectives. Child abuse should be eliminated. It cannot be justified, nor can the apathy with which society is reacting to it in terms of failing to expose it, taking action against it and treating the problem with the urgency it requires.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i on Wednesday warned Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin against suspending the negotiations with the Palestine National Authority (PNA) and against further delaying the implementation of the Oslo and Cairo agreements. In his attempt to appease the rightist factions in Israel, Mr. Rabin is going back on pledges to redeploy Israeli forces, arranging for Palestinian elections and releasing 6000 Palestinian detainees from Israeli jails, said Sultan Al Hantab. Stressing that continued occupation remains the cause for resistance activities, writer said Mr. Rabin should not fall victim to illusions that the Palestine National Authority was created to guarantee Israel's security and peace. Practicing blackmail on the Palestinians would not do any good to Israel and would not terminate the cycle of violence which can only end with Israel's withdrawal from occupied Arab lands, continued the writer. Mr. Rabin should realise, stressed the writer, that the Islamists are not the only faction among the Palestinian people who believe in resisting the Israeli occupation and ought to take speedy moves towards ensuring the return of the oppressed people's rights.

THE TRIAL of Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman in the United States on charges that he was behind the terrorist bomb attacks in New York is a play aimed at serving the Israeli-American alliance, charged Taher Al Adwan, a columnist in Al Dustour Wednesday. The world Zionism is behind the current Western campaign against Islam since Zionism has wide-scale influence on the U.S. media, which are trying to present Islam as the danger creeping on the West, he said. Such claim and such allegations are designed to serve American-Israeli alliance and corroborate Israel's assumed role as defender of Western interests in the Middle East continued the writer. The writer said that Washington has been following a contradictory policy by maintaining close contacts with the Islamists in Egypt and other parts of the world on the one hand, and sustaining a media campaign against the Islamists in the United States on the other.

The View from Academia

Writing: learning the art of the trade

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoud

ONE SUBJECT in the school syllabus (and to some extent at the university level) which needs to be seriously reconsidered, without much delay, is writing. Throughout the Arab World, writing is a problem to learn and a problem to teach. Our conception, attitude, approach and practice of it must radically change.

Take a random sample, as I have, of paragraphs and essays written by various people in our society, old or young, published or unpublished, professional or unprofessional, highly educated or humbly educated (with a few exceptions, it does not make much difference). Select from material written by students at school and university levels (10th grade pupils, freshmen, seniors, graduate students), i.e. "apprentices" still learning the essentials of the trade. Choose also from pieces written by various practitioners: teachers, preachers, researchers, newspaper and magazine columnists, reporters, court clerks, executives, etc. Vary the subject and the genre somewhat: political science, economics, sociology, history, etc.; sermons, epistles, diaries, speeches, personal letters, applications, class assignments, articles, books.

You will be amazed at how poor the quality of the writing is. Over the years, I have been acquainted first-hand with much material written in Arabic by Arabs, as a translator, a teacher of writing and translation, an observer and assistant of some non-native speakers learning Arabic, and a somewhat avid reader of texts of all kinds. The percentage of excellent or readable material is small indeed, not exceeding 15 per cent at most. One of the most vexing difficulties I encounter when translating Arabic material into English or when teaching translation is to figure out what the word, the phrase, the sentence, the paragraph and at times the whole essay actually mean. Words are not used accurately, phrases are fuzzy, sentences are foggy and paragraphs are loose and nonsensical. First you want to translate Arabic into Arabic, then into English. Ambiguity, of course, can be a virtue in certain types of writing (say, literary texts), but not in expository texts. An author of a text ought to know the precise meaning of the vocabulary he/she uses and not say (for example) *ibuzz* (blackmail) to mean "abuse" or "para-

noia" to mean "delusion of grandeur." Many non-native speakers learning Arabic find Arabic essays difficult to understand in a reading/comprehension course often because much of the argument does not stem out of facts established clearly and coherently but of assumed knowledge and implied meanings.

The writing problems in written Arabic discourse of today are enumerable. There are serious flaws (at times quite unbelievable) in punctuation, in diction, in sentence structure, in coherence, in cohesion, in argumentation, in development, in logic, in sequence, in clarity, in sharpness, in order, in organisation, in sense. Writers ramble on and on and on, beat around the bush, repeat, hint, give half the idea at the beginning, another half in the middle or at the end, either never hitting the nail on the head or hitting it unnecessarily hard. Nearly all the qualities of good writing are missing. In a word, there is no system, there is no discipline, there are no rules. Try to find a topic sentence in most contemporary Arabic texts. It is next to impossible. Try to look for a system of punctuation. No chance.

This writing problem stems most directly from the way writing is taught at our schools. We have what we call "insha". The meaning of the term is quite positive, "composition" or "construction." Literally, it means "construction," an apt metaphor and an apt concept. "Yunshi" or "to construct" implies that one is "building" an argument carefully, coherently, step by step, systematically, etc. But this is only an illusion, for "insha" has in fact acquired a very pejorative sense these days: "yunshi" has come to mean "to make up anything." You sit down for half an hour or so and write big words and long sentences which mean very little.

"Insha" is harmful in at least two respects. First, our students are encouraged (and they end up believing that) to view the writing process as essentially and absolutely spontaneous and free. One sits down and writes impressions and ideas as they come to his/her mind. There is basically no outline, no draft, no revision, no organisation or reorganisation. Secondly, the models for good writing which our students are expected to emulate are the creative

texts, i.e. he highly poetic, literary and rhetorical texts. Such is an unfortunate misconception, of course, because the rules which govern creative texts are radically different from those which govern expository writing.

Indirectly, and more generally, the writing problem stems, unavoidably, from our everyday life. The Arab of today (this is sad but it is a fact) leads an essentially carefree, aloof, indifferent, disorganised and chaotic life. There is a noticeable lack of discipline and system in the daily lives of most of us. While we do cling strongly to many habits and customs, our practices are not marked by a meticulous observation of regulations, rules and laws. Regulations, rules and laws are easily violated or broken. Nothing prevents us from using telephones at official establishments and institutions to chat with friends for hours about silly matters. We do not obey traffic rules; we go on picnics and litter the place. When we write, therefore, we just write.

The solution is to alter the way we conceive of, approach and teach writing at our schools. The insha' lesson should have a textbook first, one which spells out very clearly the rules of punctuation, organisation, argumentation, development and other mechanics and philosophy of writing. Secondly, our students ought to be given the chance to write, in the insha' lesson and in all the other lessons, and ought to be evaluated on the basis of the rules and the guidelines. Thirdly, the writing courses at the university level (which in my opinion are not generally successful) ought to be more like workshops and seminars than formal lectures. The students need to write as much as they can, and they need to get in the habit of writing according to and in light of certain strict guidelines and rules.

Writing (especially in today's world) is extremely important. It is an expression of self, for us as individuals and as a nation. It is also a reflection of self, for us as individuals and as a nation. We need to master the art of the trade if we care to present and assert ourselves more effectively. People are generally judged on the basis of what they produce, and what we produce these days is of a very poor quality.

Israel's interrogators remove their gloves

By Nigel Parry

Palestinians under interrogation are systematically tortured or ill-treated in spite of Israel's ratification of the Convention Against Torture, and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

ON NOV. 14 1994, in the wake of the kidnapping of Nachshon Waxman and the bombing of a bus in Tel Aviv, the front page of the Jerusalem Post carried an article on torture headed "Restrictions on GSS use of force eased for 3 months." The article referred to a decision made by the ministerial committee that oversees the General Security Service (GSS), the Shin Bet, the arm of the Israeli military authorities responsible for the interrogation of Palestinian detainees. Citing the "ticking bomb" scenario, where interrogators believe that a detainee has information about "an imminent act of terrorism," the committee voted to relax existing "restrictions" on the use of physical force in such cases.

Chilling list of tortures

In 1987, a state commission of enquiry headed by Moshe Landau laid down guidelines to be followed during the interrogation of "security" detainees. These were detailed only in a secret annex to the report, and permitted the use of "psychological pressure" and "a moderate measure of physical pressure."

Amnesty International (AI) has stated for a number of years that "Palestinians under interrogation are systematically tortured or ill-treated." It and other human rights organisations have compiled a chilling list of the methods employed by Israel, including: Verbal abuse and threats; deprivation of food; covering the head for hours, even days, on end; prolonged sleep deprivation; prolonged shackling in contorted positions; confinement in coffin-sized cells called "closets"; confinement in conditions of extreme heat, cold or filth; forced physical exercise; beatings on all parts of the

body, with fists, wooden sticks and rifle butts, often concentrated on sensitive areas such as the genitals; banging heads against walls and tables; burning with cigarettes; electric shocks; squeezing of the testicles; denial of medical attention.

All this is in spite of Israel's ratification in 1991 of the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Article 2 of this document states: No exceptional circumstances whatsoever, whether a state of war or the threat of war, internal political instability or any other public emergency, may be invoked as a justification of torture.

The Jerusalem Post article revealed that the decision to "ease restrictions" had been brought before the Shin Bet committee at the request of Israel's prime minister and defence minister, Yitzhak Rabin. After the Tel Aviv bus bombing on Oct. 19, Mr. Rabin reportedly said: "If the security services had acted according to the guidelines of the Landau Report in interrogating Hamas people, they would not have found out the location of Waxman's kidnappers." For Mr. Rabin, the end clearly justified the means, despite the fact that this was an admission that existing restrictions had been disregarded.

At the time of the announcement, a student at Bir Zeit University, Ahmad Ibrahim Sa'id, reported to the university's Human Rights Action Project (HRAP) that his interrogators had told him they had "removed their gloves" after receiving clear orders from Mr. Rabin to "interrogate him without limits." According to HRAP, Ahmad Sa'id had been hooded and forced to stand for up to 20 hours a day and had been deprived of sleep for a week prior to a meeting with his lawyer.

In April 1993, after the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel filed a petition at the High Court of Justice, the head of the Shin Bet submitted an affidavit describing changes which had been introduced in the interrogation procedures since the Landau commission's report. The actual detail of interrogation procedures appeared in a second, privileged affidavit. In the open part of his affidavit the head of the Shin Bet admitted that, although there was a step-by-step process of applying various methods of torture to allow detainees the opportunity to avoid "exceptional means," the option to proceed to levels of more severe torture remained available to his interrogators.

"An interrogator must first try, as far as possible, to use psychological pressure to achieve the goal. Only if this fails may the interrogator resort to the additional means of pressure which the procedure permits."

He did, however, point out that there were various procedures which were not permitted, such as "starving a detainee, depriving him of drink, preventing him from going to the lavatory, and abandoning him to heat or cold."

First-hand accounts of torture

This was news indeed to Bir Zeit student Abd Al Nasir Al Qaysi, imprisoned in Ramallah on August 10, 1994 for 51 days before being released without charge. "I began to urinate uncontrollably" during the interrogation, he reported, "but they would not let me take a shower or change my pants." Only after 15 days of detention was he permitted to bathe. During his interrogation he was regularly refused access to the toilet, and was often given only five minutes both to eat and use the toilet in a small cell with an open hole in the floor.

Another Bir Zeit student, "Salman," who was interrogated for 43 days in Farah detention centre after being arrested on May 29, 1994, reported that: "On May 31 they took me out of solitary confinement and tied me up in the yard. When I asked for a drink, a soldier brought a flagon and poured water over my head but didn't give me anything to drink."

Although it is difficult to assess Israel's adherence to secret procedures, it is clear from detainees' affidavits that the arbitrary use of extreme methods of torture continues, and guidelines which are openly referred to are similarly contravened on a regular basis.

At the time of the Jerusalem Post's worrying announcement, Birzeit were in the process of producing a report entitled *Torture During Interrogations: Testimony of Palestinian detainees, testimony of the interrogators*, their fifth publication on the issue since 1991. The report detailed continued use of forbidden methods of torture, as well as statements from Shin Bet interrogators. The sections dealing with interrogators revealed that the documentation of interrogations was both misleading and inadequate, significant in that accountability to both Israeli guidelines and international law was thereby rendered difficult.

For example, in the time between interrogations, when detainees are held in what the Shin Bet calls "waiting," the conditions often preclude sleep. One interrogator, known as "Nadiv," explained the terminology to Judge Lt. Col. Shalom Isaacson in a case at Ramallah Military Court.

"Rest means that the accused is in a place where the conditions allow sleep. Being 'in waiting' is where the accused is in a situation where he cannot sleep. He might have his hands

cuffed behind his back, or his head might be covered.

An interesting example of the Israeli army's capacity for clouding the issue of accountability arose in its official response to the Betselem report. It claimed on Nov. 16 that "four years ago, the IDF on its own initiative, appointed Maj. Gen. (res.) Rafael Vardi to review an independent and external review of the propriety of investigations conducted in the army's facilities. His conclusions and recommendations have been adopted, almost in their entirety by the senior command and have been implemented by the army." Yet the most crucial International notes in its 1992 annual report:

Vardi recommended that responsibility for interrogating residents of the Occupied Territories be transferred to non-military authorities and that orders prohibiting soldiers from using violence and threats against detainees be strengthened. However, apparently because of the opposition of other agencies, it was later announced that the armed forces would maintain responsibility for interrogating suspects through the Military Police.

Passing the buck

Betselem's report also uncovered a refusal by both the Prisons Service and the Shin Bet to accept responsibility for providing detainees with access to food, the time to eat it, and toilet facilities. Although the report included several examples of cases where detainees had been denied access to these, the Prisons Service, officially responsible for them, chose to avoid the issue and shift the responsibility to the Shin Bet. "The Prisons Service is not involved in interrogations, and investigations facilities are not within its responsibility or control. Any contentions in this regard should be

directed to the groups dealing with interrogations." The Shin Bet, responsible for handing prisoners over to the care of the Prisons Service, responded in kind. "The army is responsible only for investigations taking place in army facilities," offered its spokesman helpfully.

Victories against such a flawed and brutal system are rare and often possess a grotesque quality that leaves little room for celebration. Elia Theodory, a lawyer attached to HRAP who represents students in the military courts, tries to analyse the system and look for procedural ways to make the different divisions involved in cases accountable to each other.

In the military court system, the Shin Bet is required to report on interrogations to the judge in order that he can assess whether further periods of detention requested are likely to produce new evidence. When Naser Al Qaysi was taken for his second remand hearing on Sept. 21, 1994, three or four secret documents relating to his interrogation were submitted by the Shin Bet to judge Yossi Shapiro. Denied access to them, Theodory quietly asked the judge to sign and date the documents.

Eight days later, at the next remand hearing, the Shin Bet again submitted secret material to the same judge, and again requested an extension of Mr. Qaysi's detention for further interrogation. The dated and signed documents revealed that no new information had been discovered since the last hearing. Judge Shapiro lambasted the Shin Bet: "I will not accept this. Are you making fun of the court?" The Shin Bet claimed to have additional material and were given leave to go and fetch it during a court recess. They took Mr. Qaysi to an interrogation room and spent the next 90 minutes trying to violently extract a confession from him. Failing to get anywhere, they released him without charge when he came back in front of the judge.

Nigel Parry is press and public relations officer at Bir Zeit University in the West Bank. The article is reprinted from Middle East International.

Would for a c

Could it be that last y and that lawmakers c holidays are venting extra added verbosity of how legislative m In Taiwan high civil on the floor of the re week a U.S. congre were stricken from President Bill Clinton here, we Toujan Faisal's pe Minister Sharif Zein record during a d statement, but, earl a name-calling m Muneim Abu Zant, and Islamic Affair found to be inapp record of history. now often include meeting tables. Be the hard candy eas the very least it w before they speak speak with a sou

SPECULATIN

LES: Not so n stirred up at the last week, or so Jordan News Ag ters, stated that Shipping Lines (profits of JD 3.75 1993), and that distribute 40 p phoned Jordan Manager Yasser the local press situation. Tal ex such announcec can only be mac records have be has met to decid of which had y unravel the con to profit, shipp machine at the the source was the figures wer were intention item appeared

By Greg

Reuters LONDON — this year the Union will have what point stops being ch As defined European C directive, cho only contain c cocoa solids, s the case of mil milk. But Britain, Denmark — new EU me stria, Finland

Jordanian Theatre Festival is here to stay

By Mohammad Mashariqa

"Regardless of the obstacles and the problems that cropped up during the third Jordanian Theatre Festival, one can safely say that the festival has now been established as a tradition and that all involved parties have become keen on its perpetuation," according to Iraqi artist Aziz Hannoun.

With this phrase Hannoun summed up the situation, replying to all attempts by pessimists who had seen only the dark side of this artistic festival and who feared organisational problems.

Most of the 70 artists, actors and actresses who participated in past week's festival have expressed joy over its success and determination to see it develop and progress indefinitely.

The different plays presented in the festival had a common denominator — "human freedom."

An instance of this fact was displayed in the play *You Who Are Hearing The Voice* which was directed by Khaled Tarifi. The artist set the scene during the Ottoman rule of Arab countries when the sultan exercised absolute power and despotism against the residents of a village called Tel Al Hilali. The sultan confiscated the lands, imposed heavy taxes on the population and used women for his pleasure. The sultan was confronted by a courageous young man who decided to revolt against injustice. At the end the young man gets arrested and imprisoned.

The young man's wife, Thurayya, was subsequently subjected to a "cosmetic" and "make up" process aimed at changing her features so that she would look more presentable in the modern age during which no rebellion is permitted. But despite the sultan's attempts, Thurayya remained adamant, rejecting all change.

Tarifi succeeded in drawing the audience's ap-

plause because he presented a performance close to real life. He also presented a play that highlights heroism and extols bravery. With this play Tarifi succeeded in moving to new boundaries of creativity and in attaining distinguished levels of artistic work.

In the view of Sami Abdul Hamid, president of the Arab Artists Federation, Tarifi has succeeded in avoiding ornamental and flowery performances and opted for responding to the audience's tastes and interests.

The play *Coloured Rain* which was produced and directed by Vesna Mashariqa, has drawn conflicting views. Egyptian critic Najib Nijem objected to the use of colours in reflecting psychological conditions of characters claiming that this technique is imported from the West and does not emanate from Arab culture.

AMMAN CULTURAL PULSE

Jordanian critic Jamal Ayyad considered the same play as presenting a new form of art in Jordanian theatres. The play tackles the life of a young Jordanian woman who was forced to marry her cousin at an early age. The husband, who had just returned from abroad, prevents the woman from pursuing her education, keeping her imprisoned in his home. Soon the young woman falls victim to psychological complications and is subsequently treated for mental illness. A local sheikh is called to exorcise the evil spirit from her body but to no avail. The husband divorces the woman and deprives her of her children causing her to commit suicide.

Vesna has chosen two levels for the stage, the first embodying the real and the second the subconscious. The expressions and the acting on the stage take the

audience back to early childhood memories in an attempt to enable them to delve deep into the very essence of the characters on the stage.

In the play *Kardabik's Option*, stage director Fathi Abdul Rahman tackles a historic subject dating back to the Mameluke era at the time when Turks occupied Egypt.

In the play all Mameluke princes collaborate with the invaders and help the Sultan Saleem to enter Cairo, with the exception of one prince who rejects occupation and resorts to resistance. In the end, he is defeated and turns himself in, admitting the failure of the rebellion.

In the play the audience watches religious leaders in Egypt calling on the Egyptian people to surrender and to recognise the Muslim caliphate of the sultan in Istanbul. A dialogue ensues between the Istanbul-appointed ruler of Egypt and Kardabik who is a lone rebel against the Ottomans.

The ruler, addressing Kardabik, says: "You consider me as a traitor but I consider myself as one who well appreciates the crucial circumstances and tries to cope with the changes. But you are a lunatic and a dreamer. You will be put to death if you fail to apologise."

Kardabik replies that he opts for death rather than live a humiliating life. "I would rather serve as a good example for the coming generation, rather than give in," he adds.

Fathi Abdul Rahman's play is a classic in terms of its production, direction, decor, and costumes, and is considered a new experiment in the local theatre work.

But some people criticised the play's prolonged dialogue and the great deal of elaborate decor.

The festival witnessed two young experiments depicting two important world renowned plays: The

Goat Island which was adapted by Jamil Awad and directed by Ziyad Jalal, and *The Plague* which was directed by Hussein Naffee. In the view of director Sami Abdul Hamid, these two performances represent daring works of art that require great theatre and well-seasoned performers.

For his part, Ziyad Jalal succeeded in depicting the state of isolation, loneliness felt by three women living in an abandoned home. When a man tries to end this state of isolation and brings them into life and freedom again, the women put him to death by drowning him in a water well.

Hussein Naffee, on the other hand, presented to the audience the condition of a man obsessed by constant fear which leads him to commit treason.

The third Jordanian Theatre Festival presented different concepts from different angles depicting injustice, anxiety, frustration and other moods and states of mind. The audience was thrilled by the character of The Prince who betrayed his country more than the character of Kardabik and laughed at the despotic ruler (Khaled Tarifi) more than displaying sadness at the impaling of the patriot who rebelled against the ruler. The same audience applauded the death of (Bassam Abu Ayyash) who raped the three women and slept with two "dolls."

The five plays presented in the festival did not allow the directors to fully grasp and evaluate their artistic work largely due to the confusion and chaos which prevailed in the theatre.

The questions to be asked at the end are: What is the future of theatre work and why can't plays be performed in the rural regions and other governorates? Why can't we have more than two performances during the festival? Theatre work ought to be promoted by all means and plays should be increased at all costs to corroborate artistic work in Jordan.

SOCIETY ON THE MOVE

Would you care for a calmativ?

Could it be that last year's tensions were not released and that lawmakers coming back from the New Year holidays are venting frustrations on each other with extra added verbosity? Or are these gales an omen of how legislative matters will be dealt with in 1995? In Taiwan high civility turned into a swatting match on the floor of the republic's national assembly. Last week a U.S. congressman's "slandorous" comments were stricken from the record when he attacked President Bill Clinton's patriotism. And, not to be outdone, here, we not only had some of Deputy Tounjan Faisal's personal diatribe against Prime Minister Sharif Zeid scratched from the Parliament record during a debate of the government's policy statement, but, earlier during the week, segments of a name-calling match between Deputy Abdul Munem Abu Zant, a sheikh, and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abbadi were found to be inappropriate inclusions in an official record of history. High-powered business meetings now often include bowls of sucking candy on the meeting tables. Behavioural experts claim sucking on the hard candy eases stress in such tense settings. At the very least it would allow time for people to think before they speak since it would be highly impolite to speak with a sourball in one's mouth.

SPECULATING ON LEAKS OR GAM-BLES: Not so much name-calls as "chaos" was stirred up at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) last week, or so we were told, when a report by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, and another by Reuters, stated that officials at the Jordan National Shipping Lines (JNSL), had announced 1994 pre-tax profits of JD 3.75 million (nearly three times those of 1993), and that the company was expected to distribute 40 per cent dividends. AFM officials phoned Jordan National Shipping Lines General Manager Yasser Tal soon after the item appeared in the local press demanding to know what was the situation. Tal explains that the company had made no such announcement and furthermore, such releases can only be made after the company's 1994 financial records have been audited and its general assembly has met to decide on dividend disbursements, neither of which had yet occurred. Some interested parties unravel the confusion claiming that someone, eager to profit, slipped the item to Petra via a facsimile machine at the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel, and the source was never confirmed. Others contend that the figures were close, if not accurate, and that they were intentionally leaked to the press. On the day the item appeared in the J.T., as carried by Reuters, the

AFM posted a closing price for the company at JD 3.440 per share up from a previous closing of JD 3.300. The next day JNSL shares closed at JD 3.410; and this week shares dropped down to JD 3.280. The Jordan National Shipping Lines is to convene its annual general assembly meeting in April after which speculation over what may have happened could continue, but this time whatever report emerges from that meeting will have the company's seal of approval.

FACE TO FACE WITH PRIMARY SOURCES: Visiting Amman this past week, Asher Sussner, head of the Moshe Dayan Centre and Shiloah Institute at Tel Aviv University, sealed more than a few contacts. For a professor whose focus for more than 25 years has been modern Middle East history, with particular reference to Jordan and the Palestinians, setting foot in the Kingdom for the first time last Wednesday and meeting with Jordanian and Palestinian counterparts in an informal candid setting was, in Sussner's words, "an historic day in my life."

Sussner, who was born in South Africa in 1947 and immigrated to Israel at the age of 16, completed his B.A., M.A. and Ph.D., all in modern Middle East history at Tel Aviv University. His M.A. thesis (which was the predecessor to his latest book — *On Both Banks Of The Jordan: A Political Biography Of Wasfi Tal*) was supervised by another Israeli specialist on Jordan, the late Uri Dann. Sussner's doctoral dissertation, entitled, *Western Power Rivalry In The Levant And Its Interaction With Local Politics 1941-1946*, and completed in 1986, was supervised by Itamar Rabinovich, who became Israel's chief negotiator in the peace talks with Syria. Sussner's five-day visit to the Kingdom was "facilitated" by the United States Information Service (USIA) office here in Amman "because of his (Sussner's) obvious interest in and to Jordan," according to USIS Director Peter Kovach. Kovach and others who observed the interaction between Sussner and the officials, academicians, and journalists during his stay in Amman said Sussner was very pleased with and appreciative of the opportunity, and his new and even some former associates here were willing to engage in frank and open discussions. For both sides, the experience was an eye-opener in some ways and a still cautious step towards beginning the requirement of cultural exchange as stipulated in the peace treaty of Oct. 26, 1994.

TAKING HOME THE GOLD: In Madrid, Spain, Royal Jordanian (RJ) President and Chief Executive Officer Nader Dahabi received, on behalf of the airline, the Ftur International Tourism Festival's Golden Trophy and Certificate of Excellence for



Royal Jordanian President and Chief Executive Officer Nader Dahabi (right) receives the Tourism Certificate of Excellence for RJ in Madrid

RJ's leading international role in promoting and marketing tourism. Most people view RJ as the Kingdom's national carrier, but at this annual event, which this year drew in 142 participating countries, the "30-something" airline was recognised for its twin role which also includes contributing to the promotion of tourism to the country and the region and fostering cross-cultural exchanges. Dahabi who flew to Madrid to participate in the opening ceremonies, inaugurated by Spain's King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia, said upon accepting the award: "The horizon of tourism is ever-expanding, and with the new era of peace in our region, our target is to contribute substantially to the needs, comfort and absolute satisfaction of all visitors to our land."

INSURANCE REQUIRES A 'SURE BET': On the home from RJ's Dahabi started off the New Year with some tidying up of major departments and some reinforcements. One such area is the Insurance Department where Dahabi has recruited a savvy expert to manage the office that handles millions of dollars in insuring, the airline's aircraft, passengers, equipment and avionics. Najeh Qaddourah, previously an insurance advisor with Kuwait Airways, has come from London to join the RJ family as assistant vice-president for insurance. Qaddourah received initial training and held several managerial positions with particular involvement in aviation insurance underwriting and claims with Kuwait Insurance Company. In 1972 he joined Kuwait Airways, assuming full responsibility for the airline's major insurance projects and attended many insurance courses including ones at Lloyds Training



Najeh Qaddourah takes over RJ's Insurance Department

Centre and the CII Insurance College in Surrey, U.K. During 1977/78, he spent 15 months with major reinsurance brokers and Lloyds agencies in London to gain insight on reinsurance techniques. Appointed insurance director of Kuwait Airways in 1980, Qaddourah also was made insurance advisor to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Airlines' Executive Committee and coordinator of the \$9 billion GCC joint insurance project. He was elected VP of the Airline Mutual Insurance Company in 1988, and was posted to the Kuwait Airways London office as insurance advisor until his invitation to join the RJ team at Head Office. Qaddourah, is 49, married and has 3 children. A man who was very likely spotted for his thoroughness, said he would like to assess his return to Jordan after a year.

IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS: Just before the world was said to tune in to the Super-bowl, Jordanian athletes held their own super match which saw Al Wihdat beat Al Arabi 1-0 to take the championship as predicted by none other but our own J.T. Sports Editor Aileen Banayan. In a token of appreciation for coverage of the event and in celebrating their win Al Wihdat sent three trays of kunafeh to the news room of Al Ra'i with the intention that one of the trays be delivered to the J.T. newsroom. Need we say that the third tray never made it over to the J.T. but our sweet-tooth colleagues over at Al Ra'i were kind enough to let us know that they enjoyed every last bite. Thanks from us anyway, Wihdat, and thumbs up.

Jennifer Hamarneh

Fat changes loom for European chocolate

By Greg Frost

REUTER
LONDON — Sometime this year the European Union will have to decide at what point chocolate stops being chocolate.

As defined by a 1973 European Commission directive, chocolate can only contain cocoa butter, cocoa solids, sugar and, in the case of milk chocolate, milk.

But Britain, Ireland and Denmark — as well as new EU members Austria, Finland and Sweden

— are exempted from the directive and allow manufacturers to use cocoa-butter equivalents (CBEs) such as palm oil in making chocolate.

Now, as the EU brings its policies into line, it is considering whether to allow up to five per cent CBEs in chocolate manufacturing.

Chocolate producers stand to profit from relaxed standards, especially if the price of cocoa were to soar.

But the ingredients are less likely to be as much a sticking point as the labelling issue.

"What is to stop the chocolate industry from putting pressure on the EU to allow 10 per cent or even complete substitution of cocoa butter and still call the remaining product chocolate?" said Gerrit Ribbink of the Netherlands Development Organisation (SNV) in the Hague.

"It's misleading to the consumer to use other ingredients and still stick to the name chocolate."

A British consumer spokesman said Britain, which is keen on keeping its current practice of using up to five per cent CBEs, would oppose new laws that would change labelling standards.

"The U.K. would say the products are still called chocolate," he said.

For cocoa-producing countries, the packaging issue is secondary to the fear that an increase in the use of CBEs will lead to a

drop in the demand for cocoa.

In a statement last October, the 13-nation Cocoa Producers' Alliance, which produces more than 90 per cent of the world's cocoa, urged the European Union (EU) not to enact the proposals.

SNV estimated that if the EU allowed CBEs in chocolate, demand for cocoa could drop by anywhere between 100,000 and 200,000 tonnes — affecting up to 1 per cent of world cocoa production.

What scares producers even more is that American chocolate manufacturers could lobby the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to follow the EU's example, and this could cut demand even further.

But Bruce Stillings, a spokesman for the Chocolate Manufacturers' Association, an organisation which represents 10 chocolate companies in the United States, said the

chocolate industry had no desire to change standards.

"The chocolate industry would like to preserve the integrity of chocolate, so it comes only from cocoa butter," Mr. Stillings said.

"Even if the desire to change the standards did exist, it would probably be two to three years before one would see any change on the part of the FDA."

The British consumer spokesman said relaxing the chocolate standards might actually boost production and raise demand for cocoa because it could lead to a wider variety of products.

Kees Kromhout, of the Dutch Margarine, Oil and Fat Production Board, said a decision would probably not be reached until after France stepped down from the EU presidency in June.

France had close ties with several cocoa-producing countries and might not want to push the issue, he explained.

Horror (PC) movies

By Jean-Claude Elias

Imagine the following scenario: You just won a JD 10,000 lottery prize and instantly started to dream of owning the perfect, most powerful PC money can buy, the one that is capable of doing everything. Before even obtaining the cash against your winning ticket, images of large, colourful, high resolution screens and lightning fast hard disks begin to invade your mind, preventing you from thinking of any other subject.

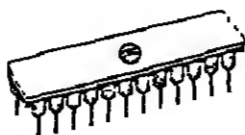
The PC you lust after, typically will be a Pentium processor with 32 MB (million bytes — characters) memory, 1 GB (billion bytes) hard disk, a 15" colour screen, a Sound Blaster card with a pair of hi-fi speakers, a fax/modem card and of course a CD-ROM laser disc. This will still leave you with more than enough cash to buy all the software you want, even in original copies: Data bases, word processors, spreadsheets, music software, CD-ROM encyclopaedias and above all games — lots of games.

Now everything is in place on your desk and action time is here. The keyboard is smooth, the mouse docile and the screen colours magnificent. You start by running Windows and browse through the Grolier Multimedia Encyclopaedia, listening to a recorded speech by J.F. Kennedy. So far so good. You exit from the Windows system and go back to the DOS in order to play one of the sophisticated action games, like "Kombat" for instance. Alas, it refuses to work. Fasten your seat belt: the "PC Horror Show" has just started.

The most alarming thing about Kombat not working is the message on the monitor: "Not enough memory!" How can that be? You have 32 MB of it. More than enough to run any piece of software in the world. Ten times more than the game itself requires. The answer is called "memory allocation." Because of a limitation in the original DOS design, PCs treat each memory zone differently. Roughly, the first megabyte is considered as the "base memory" and anything beyond one megabyte as "extended memory."

Depending on the software one is using, exploiting the base and extended zones is not always automatic. Some programmes do not "see" the extended memory part unless a certain command is issued, instructing them to do so. Which means that even though you may have physically 32 MB, the system acts as if

chip talk



you had only 1 MB installed. You must instruct it to recognise the other 31 MB. This is normally done by modifying two essential files on the hard disk, "config.sys" and "autoexec.bat" (we'll call them start-up files).

Unfortunately the setting that is necessary for large games is in contradiction with the ideal setting for Windows. You may do the adjustment for "Kombat" but then Windows won't work properly — hence the "horror." Users therefore must keep changing the contents of the above files and reset their machine between games-Windows-games sessions. Not only is the operation unpleasant, it is also risky for the non-initiated.

Moreover, not all games require the same setting. The presence of the CD-ROM, the sound card, and other additional devices that need extra setting in the mentioned files also adds to the complexity of the solution. In short, it is impossible to reach one or even two settings that would make all software run. All the memory or the money in the world won't do. The answer is in being able to adjust and modify the start-up files. Although most teenagers are now perfectly capable of doing the operation it still looks like black magic for most non-professional adults.

MS-DOS version 6.2 has a built-in facility that lets users create programmable start-up files. At power-on, the system will display a menu, prompting the user to choose between the different settings. One can have many of them. But even this requires a sound knowledge of MS-DOS, its commands and the way it manages memory. Unless really familiar with these details, do not try it yourself. Ask a specialist to create the ideal "config.sys" and "autoexec.bat" files for you. Make sure to keep a back up of these two critical files. Only then may you turn the horror show into a pleasant cruise.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shugair

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

— Put your trust in Him Who is the Mighty, the Merciful.
Tawakkal alai-Aziz, al-Rahim.
— Verily, with trouble will be ease.
Inna ma'al asr'i yussara.
— She lived with him through thick and thin.
Aashat ma'ahu fis-sarraa wad-darraa.

— The fault lies at your door.
Al-haq alaika / innakal mukhti'.
— He that would eat the kernel must crack the nut.
Mann talabal-ola sahirat-layali.
— Every bullet has its billet.
La yusebokom cila ma katabal-lahn lakom.
— Your advice brought my brother to himself.
Nasehatoka a'adat akhi ela rushdihi
— Darkness put him to the wrong box.
Adallahu az-zalam anit-tareeq.
— Be easy, you find one who boots you.
It'ma'in, wa satajjid manni ya'mal ma feehi salihok.
— You're bound to respect your betters.
Anta mulzam be-ann tahtarim ru'asa'ak.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

TIME FOR FUN

★ BOY (very shy): "It's said that kisses are the language of love."
GIRL FRIEND (smiling): "They're right in what they say."
(They stood silent for 5 minutes) I don't know what prevents you from practising such a beautiful language."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ THE BRIDE: "What do you use to clean your carpets?"
THE MARRIED WOMAN: "In fact, I've used several ways, but at last I found that my husband is the best and the most suitable one to do the job properly."

★ A doctor was asked: "Why do you always question your patients about their diet when you examine them? Does that help you to diagnose the illness?"
"No, it just helps to fix my fee," came the answer.

★ On the occasion of their wedding anniversary, a reporter asked:
"Didn't you think one day of divorce during the whole years you've passed with each other?"
"No, never, never," said the wife, "but we sometimes thought of something else — I mean mmm ... murder!"

★ On receiving the news from his wife that their daughter gave birth to a baby, the late American Senator, Arthur Vandenberg, commented: "I don't worry being a grandfather. What I am really worried about it to be married to one of the grandmothers."

★ It was reputed that one of the husbands used to talk in his sleep and sometimes screamed a lot.
"What are dreams in your point of view, darling?" the wife inquired.
"They're deprivation and suppression," he replied.

"Still I don't understand what you exactly mean, dearest," she said.
"You don't, for instance, give me ample opportunity to talk while I am awake, so I am forced to do that in sleep," the husband answered.

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. Which of the following are edible? — Bamboo shoots, rhubarb leaves, bracken shoots, young nettles, laver, palm hearts, rattlesnake, python, hedgehog, octopus.
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

2. What are a gasket, a chamfer, a crank, a gantry and a fish-plate?
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

3. Who were the Three Musketeers, Soldiers Three, the Four Just Men, the Nine Tailors, and the three men in a tub?
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

4. What are the different methods of cooking food?
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

5. Under what circumstances can a golfer handle his ball without incurring a penalty?
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

COOKING IS FUN LENTIL SOUP (SHURBET ADAS)

2 cups dried lentils
3 quarts water
2 medium onions, sliced.
2 teaspoon salt 1 pound raw spinach, chopped
2 tablespoons lemon juice

PREPARATION
Soak, lentils in water to cover in deep kettle overnight. Drain.
Add water, onions and salt.
Simmer for 2 hours, or until tender.
Add spinach.
Cook for 10 minutes longer.
Add lemon juice before serving.

PERPLEXITIES "PLUS TWO"

Clues are given in the first list below to six words. To each of these words two letters are to be added, so that when the combined letters are rearranged, new words are formed, to which clues are also supplied. Thus COPY + 2 letters = IRREGULAR would be solved as TRACE + IR = ERRATIC

BROAD SMILE + 2 letters = EDGE
GLASS VESSEL + 2 letters = BOOK OF OPERA
SIMPLETON + 2 letters = TOILET REQUISITE
FETTER + 2 letters = NO TRUMPS
BOMBAST + 2 letters = COIN (Colloquial)
STAGE-PLAY + 2 letters = WILD BIRD

The accuracy of the solution may be tested by rearranging the twelve added letters to form the name (two words) of a contemporary writer.

Learning to keep an open mind

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaceen

Historic buildings in cities as apparently diverse as Dublin and New Delhi have been demolished with nothing less than glee over the past 40 years by chauvinist developers and local authorities on the basis that they are foreign structures representing old imperial powers and so deserve to go.

In Ireland, it is claimed that because the country's disappearing Georgian buildings are English or Anglo-Irish, they are somehow more than ripe for demolition. But, they will only be replaced by something which is most certainly no better: Post-modern junk imported half-heartedly from the United States, or cut price, superstore-style trash adapted from half-baked notions of what constitutes a contemporary vernacular.

In India, a magnificent early 19th-century office was demolished in Madras and replaced by a banal, Post-modern, office block that would be equally at home in Bangalore or Birmingham. But because it was English or British or whatever, it was pulled down.

But this argument continues to be used a clever way of getting rid of buildings that occupy valuable

sites which might be developed more profitably. And, however, reasonably one might put the case against demolition, one can be accused of being a latter-day imperialist.

In Cuba, funds from UNESCO have been used to rebuild significant patches of Havana's beautiful colonial centres which were designed by Spanish architects. The Cuban government could have destroyed these centres on the grounds that they represented both the physical aspects of colonialism and because they were Spanish in style, not Cuban. But, of course, they are Cuban, just as Victoria Station in Bombay's is Indian. This is because Spanish architects working in Cuba produced a very different breed of architecture in the Caribbean than they did in the Iberian peninsula. Just the same, the great Indian architecture of Lutyens and Baker owed, at its most inspired, little to its contemporary British precedent.

What the cities like Havana and Bombay have learnt, unlike Dublin and Madras, is that not only is their historic architecture popular among their own people, because it is beautiful, practical and a part of the collective memory, but it also draws tourists and valuable foreign revenue.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Feb. 2

7:30 N.B.A.

8:30 Road To Avonlea

Marilla takes over the raising of two orphan children, Davey and Dora Keith, much to Rachel Lynde's disapproval.

9:15 The Hat Squad

An inmate on death row challenges the Hat Squad to expose a ring of policemen in their department taking murder contracts.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Untamed Love

Starring: Cathy Lee Crosby & John Getz

Based on a true story, Untamed Love tells the story of a school teacher who's in charge of a special education class which is already full of fragile children. When yet another student is added she protests, especially since the new child has a history of violent behaviour.

12:00 Bangkok Hilton

After the death of her mother, Katherine, the daughter of a British general learns that he belongs to a rich, well-known family in London, decides to embark on a long journey in search of her lost father.

Friday, Feb. 3

7:30 Documentary — Ramadan In The World

8:00 African Skies

A casual drive almost turns to tragedy when Raimund is run off the road by a truck loaded with tree trunks.

8:30 Desmond's

9:00 P.M. Magazine

9:30 Heart Of Courage

10:00 News In English

10:20 Flight Into Hell

A long journey of desperation and misery begins when two German pilots land on a deserted coastal area after their plane runs out of fuel.

12:00 Feature Film — Brewster's Millions

Starring: Richard Pryor & John Candy

The film is an entertaining comedy which tells the story of a minor-league baseball player who stands to inherit \$300 million if he can fulfill the provisions of a rather daffy will.

Saturday, Feb. 4

7:30 Documentary — Ramadan In The World

7:45 You Bet Your Life

8:30 Quantum Leap

9:15 Murder She Wrote

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Betsy's Wedding

Starring: Alan Alda & Molly Ringwald

In this warm-hearted and often uproarious comedy-drama, a down-on-his-luck dad tries to raise money to give his daughter a big wedding.

12:00 And The Sea Will Tell

Sunday, Feb. 5

7:30 Documentary — Profiles Of The Muslim World

7:50 Charlie Chaplin

8:00 Erebus 'Aftermath'

9:00 Step By Step

9:30 Heartbeat

A local programme presented by Maha Addassi

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Night Crossing

Starring: John Hurt & Jane Alexander

This Disney film is about a real-life escape from East Germany by two families in a gas-filled balloon.

12:00 Till We Meet Again

Monday, Feb. 6

7:30 Documentary — Ramadan In The World

7:45 Documentary — Magazine Zero One

8:00 Street Hawk

8:45 Documentary — The Miraculous Cosmos Of The Brain

9:10 By Way Of The Stars

10:00 News In English

10:20 Fall From Grace

12:00 Feature Film — Children Of A Lesser God

Starring: William Hurt & Marlee Matlin

Based on the Tony Award-winning play by Mark Medoff, this superb film concerns the love that grows between a teacher for the hearing-impaired and a deaf woman.

Tuesday, Feb. 7

7:30 Documentary — Profiles Of The Muslim World

7:50 Home Improvement

8:30 Road To Avonlea

Romney Penhallow, an old flame of Hetty's, returns to Avonlea and rekindles their long-lost romance.

9:15 Documentary — Space Shuttle Discovery

10:00 News In English

10:20 Wild Palms

12:00 Feature Film — Bird On A Wire

Starring: Mel Gibson & Goldie Hawn

The film tells the story of a hotshot corporate woman lawyer and a mystery man from her past. A promising plot about a witness relocation programme participant betrayed by FBI agents is eschewed in favour of a madcap chase.

Wednesday, Feb. 8

7:30 Documentary — Ramadan In The World

7:45 Charlie Chaplin

8:30 Law And Order

9:00 The Cinder Path

10:00 News In English

10:20 Snowy River

Chaos takes place in Patterson's Ridge townhall as the local people are introduced to their new police officer, Constable Edward Dengate.

12:00 Feature Film — Coal Miner's Daughter

Starring: Sissy Spacek & Tommy Lee Jones

The film tells the real life story of country singer Loretta Lynn. The title role takes Spacek from Lynn's impoverished childhood through marriage at thirteen up to her mid-thirties and reign as the "first lady of country music."

By Michael J. Band
USA

HOLLYWOOD. At the start of 1995, is looking back on a year of accomplishments, disappointments, and a series of modest yet gratifying gains for women in the film industry.

In terms of profits, Hollywood had the best month period in its history. It was also a year of remarkable thematic diversity.

Consider four of the year's most successful movies: A violent portrait of gangster life (Pulp Fiction), the latest animated film from Walt Disney Studios (The Lion King), a thriller involving a runaway bus (Speed), and a genial comedy about a dauntless fellow who comes his slow-witted, bumbling partner to become a genuine hero (Forrest Gump). In addition, one of the most critically acclaimed was a documentary about basketball.

It was a year when things were a sure thing. Many studios lost money by risking huge amounts on action films, comedies, and, in a couple of cases, more cerebral projects that failed to find audiences. More than a dozen directors and A-list actors saw their latest projects sink with barely a ripple. There were some come developments in the past year — surprises, some cases, reaffirmations in other.

Tom Hanks, who was an anguished, Oscar-winning performance last year as a victim in the movie Philadelphia, was quite rent, yet equally gripping, as Forrest Gump. Paul Newman, as a reformed actor as there Hollywood, turned beautifully measured in an aging, small-town resident body's Fool, based on recent novel by R. Russo.

John Travolta, who came a pop hero in the late 1970s, helping

Susan Sarandon

By Paul Majors

Reuter

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Hollywood in 1994 — a year of rising expectations for women

By Michael J. Bandler
USIA

HOLLYWOOD, at the start of 1995, is looking back on a year of accomplishments, disappointments, and a series of modest yet gratifying gains for women in the film industry.

In terms of profits, Hollywood had the best 12-month period in its history. It was also a year of remarkable thematic diversity.

Consider four of the year's most successful movies: A violent portrait of gangster life (Pulp Fiction), the latest animated film from Walt Disney Studios (The Lion King), a thriller involving a runaway bus (Speed), and a genial comedy about a dauntless fellow who overcomes his slow-wittedness to become a genuine U.S. hero (Forrest Gump). In addition, one of the most critically acclaimed films was a documentary about basketball.

It was a year when nothing was a sure thing. Many studios lost money by risking huge amounts on action films, comedies and, in a couple of instances, more cerebral projects that failed to win audiences. Moreover, several tried-and-true directors and A-list actors saw their latest projects sink with barely a ripple. There were some welcome developments this past year — surprises in some cases, reaffirmations in other.

Tom Hanks, who gave an anguished, brave Oscar-winning performance last year as an AIDS victim in the movie Philadelphia, was quite different, yet equally gratifying, as Forrest Gump. Paul Newman, as reliable an actor as there is in Hollywood, turned in a beautifully measured portrayal of an aging, raging small-town resident in Nobody's Fool, based on a recent novel by Richard Russo.

John Travolta, who became a pop hero in the late 1970s, helping trigger

the disco craze with Saturday Night Fever, reignited his career in 1994 with a powerful performance as a gangster in Pulp Fiction, written and directed by Quentin Tarantino, a young filmmaker who has become an industry favorite.

The most-acclaimed most thoughtful, most accessible movie of the year turned out to be the three-and-a-half-hour documentary Hoop Dreams. Its creative team of three filmmakers in their 30s — director Steve James, editor Fred Marx, and cinematographer Peter Gilbert — spent eight years following two young basketball players living in the Chicago inner city, from their early teens through high school and on to college, with some sobering detours along the way.

Costing a mere \$500,000 (the average studio film costs between \$30 and \$70 million), and released by a small independent studio, Hoop Dreams made points not only about human determination and will, but also about the misplaced values that often arise in the sports world. It remains to be seen whether this movie will become one of the very few documentaries to escape its own category and receive the Oscar nomination for best film (Academy Awards nominations will be announced in mid-February).

If 1994 will not be remembered as a "golden age" of filmmaking, it will be cited as a year in which women — in front of, and even more so, behind the cameras — had a considerable impact. Interestingly, as Oscar (Academy Awards) fever arises in the first weeks of 1995, a month before nominations and two months before the actual awards ceremony, one of the oft-stated predictions is that voters will be hard-pressed to find enough worthy performances to fill the five slots in the

"Best Actress" category. In fact, a number of women made lasting marks with their work in 1994. Among actresses, Jodie Foster (Nell), Jessica Lange (Blue Sky), Susan Sarandon (The Client, Little Women, Safe Passage), Jennifer Jason Leigh (Mrs. Parker and the Vicious Circle), and Winona Ryder (Little Women) gave memorable performances. Most likely, three or four of that group — perhaps with a surprise or two — will find their names on Oscar ballots.

At the same time, lesser known individuals — including actresses Julianne Moore (Vanya On 42nd Street) and Linda Fiorentino (The Last Seduction), and studio executives Amy Pascal and Wendy Finerman — played significant roles in the industry.

Gradually, the climate is changing for women in Hollywood. The "glass ceiling" — an invisible barrier to advancement — may still exist in many quarters, and actresses, particularly those approaching middle age, may be justifiably impatient with the paucity of meaningful work offered them. Yet signs of forward movement are everywhere.

The clearest evidence is on the screen, as shown by two of 1994's most courageous projects.

In Nell, actress Foster, winner of two previous "Best Actress" Oscars (The Accused and Silence of the Lambs), not only gave a luminous performance



Winona Ryder

as a feral young woman living alone in a forest in the southeastern United States, speaking an almost unintelligible language, but also debuted as producer. In that role Foster dealt with casting, budgets, and other executive matters not normally the province of performers.

Warmly received by most critics and growing in popularity with audiences, the film depicts the initial contacts between the protagonist and a physician (Liam Neeson) who seeks her out and, with the assistance of a psychiatrist, measures the wisdom of weaning Nell into everyday society.

A second project, released in the last week of 1994, was the fourth screen version of Louisa May Alcott's Little Women, a glimpse into the lives of four sisters and their mother living in Massachusetts in mid-19th-century America, with the head of the household away at war.

The \$15 million movie, a project largely shaped and realized by a creative team of Hollywood women, including development executive Amy Pascal and producer Denise DiNoi, was as inexpensive as any studio production in these days. Early box-office receipts indicate it will be one of the year's more profitable ventures.

Unheralded among more visible holiday fare, Little Women took reviewers and moviegoers somewhat by surprise with its crisp, credible acting (by Winona Ryder, Clare

Danes, Trini Alvarado, Kirsten Dunst, and Susan Sarandon), superb pacing in the hands of Australian director Gillian Armstrong, and an adaptation deftly fashioned by screenwriter-producer Robin Swicord to reflect the link between modern-day and century-old sensibilities.

Courage, imagination and guts were evident, too, in the roles chosen by a number of other women on the Hollywood scene.

Jessica Lange, who is extremely selective, partly because she is a stickler for quality and partly because — like most of her colleagues — she isn't offered much work, resurfaced in Blue Sky as an army wife approaching middle age who refuses to stand by, passively, as the dreams of her youth are obliterated.

Jennifer Jason Leigh, a young actress who until now has had the misfortune of appearing mostly in forgettable films about the dark underbelly of society, took on the challenge of playing the acerbic, self-destructive Thirties writer and social bon Dorothy Parker. Mrs. Parker And The Vicious Circle bones in on the Algonquin Club, the New York City literary salon which, between the two world wars, drew to its tables writers, critics and musicians.

Winona Ryder, youngest of the three, realized her potential mightily in two contrasting films about life on the brink of adulthood. Little Women revealed her as a focused individual, seeking to fulfill her literary aspirations and take her place in a man's world.



Jennifer Jason Leigh

Reality Bites showed her trying to figure out her place in life as a contemporary young adult and member of what is familiarly known as Generation X.

There were also some surprises. Two actresses, a veteran and a relative newcomer, seized the momentum in a pair of fast-moving thrillers. Meryl Streep fought off a pair of fleeing bank robbers as well as raging rapids in The River Wild, the first action film of her career. And Sandra Bullock commandeered a runaway bus in Speed, a box-office triumph.

Streep, who shaped her career around a disparate variety of women of different lands, accents and centuries, took the role not only to try something different, but also because she saw a trickle rather than a stream of projects heading her way. (Since then, she has acted with Clint Eastwood in The Bridges of Madison County, based on a popular recent novel about a middle-aged romance and due for release in mid-1995).

Many actresses confront that reality in different ways. Shirley MacLaine, in her late 50s, has begun accepting older character parts, such as her winning portrayal of a president's widow in Guarding Tess.

Sally Field, still in her 40s, has taken what is available — meaning that in 1994, she donned a series of costumes and aged about forty years to play Forrest Gump's mother opposite Hanks. Goldie Hawn and Bette Midler, also, fortysomething, didn't work at all. And a number of their younger



Jessica Lange

million-dollar-plus colleagues, such as Julia Roberts and Sharon Stone, spent the year on projects few moviegoers saw.

Invariably, new talents emerge. The brightest of these in 1994 were Fiorentino and Moore. Fiorentino, in a series of movies with darker, more violent themes, has emerged as the "moll" of her era, a worthy successor to Ida Lupino and Veronica Lake of earlier film generations.

Moore, an exquisite performer who may have her breakout part in 1995 in a romantic comedy, Nine Months (due for summer release), was at the center of a beautifully realized experiment, a transposition of Chekhov's drama, Uncle Vanya, to the screen as a rehearsal — the actors wore contemporary clothes instead of period costumes — being staged in a dank, shuttered midtown New York City theatre. Entitled Vanya on 42nd Street, it was on many critics' "best ten" lists.

The impact of women gradually has moved behind the cameras as well. The continuation of a process begun long before 1994. And as people like Lisa Henson, 34, Stacy Snider, 33 and Pascal, 36, assume their place setting directions and goals for Columbia, Tri-Star and Turner Pictures respectively, they will bring more women into the process.

One of the most gratifying stories of the year, in fact, involved a production not particularly recognized as an effort guided by women.

Nearly a decade ago Wendy Finerman, then in her mid-20s, a graduate of an Ivy League university and business school, fell in love with a novel by Winston Groom called Forrest Gump.

Just on the brink of a career in the movie business, Finerman kept pressing the book on anyone within earshot. Tenacious and assured, she finally succeeded in bringing the book to the screen. Its domestic gross has surpassed \$300 million.

Thoughts For This Week

Charity looks at the need and not at the cause — German proverb.

It is impossible to write ancient history because we lack source materials, and impossible to write modern history because we have far too many — Charles Peguy, French poet and writer (1873-1914).

The worst enemy of truth and freedom in our society is the compact majority. Yes, the damned, compact, liberal majority — Henrik Ibsen, Norwegian dramatist (1828-1906).

To be proud and inaccessible is to be timid and weak — Jean Baptiste Massillon, French clergyman (1663-1742).

It is not all books that are as dull as their readers — Henry David Thoreau, American author (1817-1862).

I have always believed that God never gives a cross to bear larger than we can carry. ...no matter what, God wants us to be happy. He doesn't want us to be sad. Birds sing after a storm. Why shouldn't we? — Rose Kennedy (1890-).

No written law has ever been more binding than unwritten custom supported by popular opinion — Carrie Chapman Catt, American Feminist (1859-1947).

British musicals conquer the world

By Paul Majendie
Reuters

LONDON — British musicals have conquered the world from Sydney to Tel Aviv thanks to the composing talents of Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber and the business acumen of producer Cameron Mackintosh.

Both have become multi-millionaires after discovering a magic formula that helped Britain eclipse the United States in the art of musical-making.

Their music has broken down language and cultural barriers in Bratislava and Tokyo. The appetite for British blockbusters is so big that special theatres

have been built in Germany and Canada to house them.

A third of Norway's population went to see one MacKintosh hit. Lloyd Webber's Cats has become the world's longest-running musical.

The Lloyd Webber and MacKintosh camps bridle at suggestions that their musicals are cloned and franchised like hamburgers to "taste" the same world over.

"We are not talking about burgers, we are talking about human beings," says MacKintosh's Executive Producer Nick Allott. "I don't think we would like to be called the

McDonalds of world theatre. It is far too individualistic," says David Grindrod, production coordinator at Lloyd Webber's really useful company.

He has to think long and hard when reeling off the list of Lloyd Webber hits being staged in case he forgets any.

Cats has now been performed 41,000 times in 21 different countries since it first opened in 1981.

Joseph And The Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat has made it to Bratislava. "Phantom Of The Opera is going strong in Kansas, Denver and San Francisco. Starlight Express is playing in Lon-

don, Germany and Las Vegas.

"Sunset Boulevard is playing in London and New York. Productions of that will be going to Frankfurt, Toronto and Sydney," Grindrod said.

He couldn't even hazard a guess at how many people had been to a Lloyd Webber musical: "Millions have seen them all over the world and Cats is now the world's longest-running."

Lloyd Webber has twice won the Queen's Award for Industry and earned a knighthood as a one-man export business.

Often the critics are not kind. When Sunset Boule-

vard opened in New York, they denounced the show as saccharine, tedious, overpublicised and over-produced.

Howard Kissel of New York's Daily News said: "The music is recitative, repetitive singsong and the musical numbers bloated."

But the public ignored the critics and Grindrod puts it down to the universality of the shows: Phantom Of The Opera is the Beauty And The Beast love story. Joseph is a very simple story that hits hearts all over the world."

The Americans once reigned supreme with musicals like Oklahoma, Hello Dolly, West Side

Story and My Fair Lady. But no longer. MacKintosh's production of the Vietnam War musical Miss Saigon has now run longer at London's Theatre Royal than My Fair Lady with Rex Harrison and Julie Andrews.

Allott is not surprised. "American composers are caught in a time warp. The American dream is still the subject of their musicals. They haven't assimilated the changes in popular music taste," he said.

MacKintosh struck a vein of gold with Les Miserables and Miss Saigon by the French composers Alain Boublil and Claude-

Michel Schonberg. Without his commercial process and packaging, they would never have taken off internationally.

"They have originated here and come out from under the banner of Cameron," Allott said.

"We have got 40 different productions playing. Les Miserables has played in Reykjavik. When we did Oslo, 30 per cent of Norway saw it," he said.

The latest MacKintosh juggernaut is a London revival of Lionel Bart's Oliver which recouped its production costs twice over in advance bookings before it opened.

Are there any frontiers still left to be conquered?

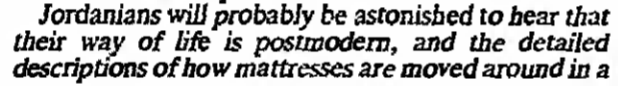
Allott said: "I would love to take on South America. It has terrific potential."

As for Lloyd Webber, he now has his eye on the film world. In one of the most unlikely musical combinations, he has teamed up with American Jim Steinman, who wrote Meatloaf's best-selling Bat Out Of Hell albums.

They are working on a new version of the 1966 film Whistle Down The Wind starring Hayley Mills about three children who mistake an escaped convict for Jesus Christ and barbour him in a barn.

BOOK REVIEWS

The author links her discussion of defining tribal identity to the question of national identity. Who is a "true Jordanian" in a country where a substantial portion of the population is of Palestinian origin or



The book explains how the Communist regime was able to split the Muslim forces, gathering some enlightened figures to its side and tricking many ulama and other opponents by offering peace terms they never meant to keep. Thus the Russian Bolsheviks based in Tashkent crushed the fragile independence of the first popular Muslim republics of Central Asia, (those of Bukhara and Khiva), rapidly starting an offensive against the traditional Muslim system. In August 1919, the government of Turkestan decreed the abolition of Shari'a courts. "The first measures adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Turkestan Territory were in flagrant contradiction with Bolshevik promises to protect the rights of Muslims," judge the authors. Then, only because of the regimes

That Russia, with its military muscle, is the ultimate guarantor of the region's stability — or rather the status quo — seems to be proved by the sequence of events in Tajikistan since April 1992. The civil war there also arguably reveals the weakness of Muslim fundamentalists even in Tajikistan, where the public clearly was much more receptive to its message than in any other republics. Whatever else it is, Tajikistan's civil war is not a simple fight between Islam and communism. It has become obvious, judge the authors, "that the fundamentalists' slogans are often adopted by political adventurers, mafia networks and, plainly, bandits" — *Middle East International*.

Anthony Hyman[illegible]

- If moved by opponent's ball.*
- If touching an obstruction such as ground under repair.*
- If within a club's length of opponent's ball through the green.*
- If so damaged as to be unfit for lay.*
- If in casual water on the green.*
- If casual water is between ball on green and hole.*
- If within six inches of opponent's ball on green.*

= MARGIN
 = LIBRETTO
 = LOOFAH
 = CHICANE
 = TANNER
 = MALLARD

The added letters, when rearranged, form MICHAEL ARLEN.

By David Thurber
The Associated Press

...the columnists debated whether the disaster was a sign of divine retribution or a natural calamity. Layne noted several legends about the earthquake, including one that said the earthquake was a punishment for the people's sins. Another legend said that the earthquake was a sign of the end of the world.

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OUT IN THE COLD: Japanese refugees left homeless by the Jan. 17 earthquake gather at the Ikuto High School gymnasium (AFP photo)

Quake reveals Japan's strengths — and weaknesses

The Jan. 17 quake, which killed more than 5,000 people and destroyed tens of thousands of buildings, has brought out many noble traits among the survivors, such as patience, perseverance and honour.

There have been almost no reports of serious crime or looting. Prices have remained generally stable despite shortages and the devastation of stores and banks.

With remarkably few complaints, Kobe's citizens, many still housed in emergency shelters, have stoically begun the long rebuilding process and are hard at work at jobs or in school despite the devastated transportation system.

But the quake also served as a kind of psychological fault line, opening up new questions and doubts for many Japanese about the symbolic as well as physical cornerstones of their lives.

Rather than ordering a swift, strong response, Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama waited for the slow-moving bureaucracy to take the lead.

Even the emperor and empress, revered as symbols of the nation, waited 10 days to announce they would visit the quake area — after it was reported that Britain's Princess Diana might do so.

At the height of its economic power in the late 1980s, Japan felt it had little to learn from the rest of the world.

But already chastened by its recent three-year economic slump, the country has had to accept another blow — the shattering of its faith that its technology could counter centuries of susceptibility to nature's power.

Modern, supposedly earthquake-proof buildings crumbled in the quake along with traditional wooden homes. Through-out Japan, buildings, subways and train lines have been built to the same standards, leaving many people worried about their own safety.

More shocking were shoddy construction had been discovered in some damaged highway pillars and in supports for Japan's famed "bullet" train line, a symbol of the country's technical prowess.

Japan discovered during the slump that it still can

learn much about business and high technology from the rest of the world. It has realised since the quake that it can also gain from foreign know-how about disaster response.

In recent years, Japanese experts were smug following earthquakes in San Francisco and Los Angeles, saying Japan's high engineering standards would save off similar damage.

But since Kobe's far more widespread destruction, television news programmes have focused repeatedly on the lessons Japan must learn from California about earthquake preparation.

Mr. Murayama has also conceded that his government was slow in responding to the disaster, and blamed lack of an effective crisis-management system.

But critics say the problem pervades Japan's bureaucracy, which in many ways runs the country. The bureaucracy is bawdworking and well-intentioned — but also cautious and precedent-bound.

As the recovery efforts beaded into their third week, many of the early problems of inadequate mobilisation and information have eased.

But at least two senior relief officials appeared close to emotional breakdowns because of exhaustion. In a country where effort is often more highly regarded than actual achievement, one criticised official lashed out at a reporter and described how long he had been working without sleep.

The humbling has gener-

ated a powerful backlash against the bureaucracy, a highly respected elite comprised of the top graduates of the nation's top schools.

"Bureaucrats were responsible for the loss of many lives that could have been saved," said Tatou Takahama, a senior fellow at the private Yomiuri Research Institute.

In a commentary in the Yomiuri, Japan's largest newspaper, Mr. Takahama blasted bureaucrats' territorialism and passivity, saying these qualities resulted in delays in mobilising aid and in accepting offers of assistance.

Officials confirmed Friday that Japan had turned down extensive offers of help from the United States, including the anchoring of an American aircraft carrier in Kobe bay

to house up to 2,000 injured and homeless.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Kishichiro Amae said the government was still considering offers from dozens of countries. But he implied that aid was still not entirely welcome.

The quake aftermath has cast a revealing spotlight on Japan's way of dealing with the outside world — an approach marked by discomfort in dealing with foreigners and the desire not to depend on or be obligated to outsiders.

After the quake, officials initially refused to relax regulations and allow foreign relief teams to treat victims without Japanese medical licenses, and re-portedly only after media reports embarrassed them.

Bureaucrats even declined an offer of a golf

course clubhouse outside Kobe for use as an emergency shelter, saying it would be unfairly luxurious compared to other relief facilities.

Although it is legal to do so, central government officials say it would be improper for them to take the lead in rescue efforts and not wait for requests from local governments to come through normal bureaucratic channels. One result was that it took four hours before Japanese troops arrived at the quake scene.

Other officials have said a strong central government response to the quake would have harked back to the authoritarian days leading up to World War II. Many people compared Kobe's damage to the devastation of Japanese cities during the war, the coun-

try's most vulnerable time.

Still, for some, the earthquake brought hope for positive change.

Although Japan has little tradition of private aid or volunteer work, more than 7,000 people have registered as volunteers after the quake. Many more are helping out without official registering.

As Mr. Kadoi, the newspaper distributor, talked, two roasted sweet potato vendors were offering piping-hot potatoes to the thousand victims at his shelter. Inside, a crew of volunteers was cleaning up and preparing to serve the next meal of donated food.

"It's a wonderful development, to see all those volunteers," said Michio Hayama, a housewife. "It's a symbol of hope for the future."

Cairo to host Mideast summit

(Continued from page 1)

December that Egypt supported Syria's insistence on a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Israel has offered only a partial withdrawal so far and demands a Syrian commitment to full ties with the Jewish state as a precondition.

Mr. Peres blamed Syria for the deadlock.

"We made peace with three parties. Egypt first and the PLO, then the Jordanians. Who can accuse us of (hocking) peace?"

"We have shown in real terms that we are ready to compromise on the peace and authority, but what the Syrians are asking is totally unprecedented at negotiations. They want that we should accept their opening before negotiations start. It is not done," he said.

Arafat spokesman Marwan Kanafani said the PLO hoped the summit "will solve some of the problems we're facing, most importantly the siege on the Palestinian territories."

A senior PLO official summarised the meeting thus: "Basically the meeting is intended to help Rabin overcome his domestic problems."

Mr. Rabin's popularity in the polls has dipped since a

spate of suicide bombings by opponents of the self-rule accord with the Palestinians. Israelis say the 1993 agreement has failed to improve their security.

The PLO official said Mr. Arafat expected little more than a promise from Mr. Rabin to ease the sealing of the occupied West Bank and PLO-ruled Gaza imposed after the bombings.

The closures, which Palestinians view as collective punishment, together with continued Jewish settlement of Arab land, have turned many Palestinians against the peace deal. The official, quoted by Reuters, said talks with Israel on holding delayed Palestinian elections would resume in Cairo next Tuesday or Wednesday.

The summit was made possible after King Hussein and Mr. Arafat resolved most of their differences, and Israel and Egypt defused tension over nuclear weapons.

Cairo was angered by Israel's refusal to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

"I believe this greatly broke up the clouds that had amassed in the relations between us and Egypt," Mr. Peres said of his meeting with Mr. Mubarak.

Mr. Peres refused to coo-

firm or deny that he had offered Egyptian experts an unprecedented tour of a nuclear reactor in a bid to cool a war of words over the Jewish state's nuclear programme.

The Israeli daily Haaretz reported Wednesday that Israel would invite nuclear scientists from Egypt to visit an Israeli nuclear research centre at Nahal Soreq.

Haaretz said Nahal Soreq is subject to inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency, and that Egyptian officials have visited the site as part of an international delegation.

"I don't think we shall discuss publicly such an issue before we reach an agreement between us," Mr. Peres said.

"I am sure we shall find a modality on how to overcome the differences between us," he said, adding, "We have to work for a region free of nuclear weapons."

Mr. Musa said "Egypt confirms that we need a region free of all weapons of mass destruction in particular the nuclear weapons."

"We cannot accept the situation today that there is a nuclear programme unknown," he said.

"We are trying to solve the problem in order to deal with it in a positive and effective way. We shall continue to talk about it," Mr. Musa said.

By Lars Foyen
Reuters

COPENHAGEN — Fancy taking a year's paid leave from work to study, be with your children or just lie on the couch and read novels? The dream has become reality in Denmark, appropriately the homeland of fairy-tale writer Hans Christian Andersen.

At the end of 1994, almost 80,000 Danes were enjoying a new leave from work programme designed to promote job-sharing and cut unemployment.

Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, a pragmatic Social Democrat who introduced the scheme, often talks of a future society where people can tailor their own lives mixing work, education and parental duties according to personal needs.

The one-year-old programme — giving the right to 12 months of educational, parental or sabbatical leave — seems to make sense from an economic, human and political point of view.

In theory, each worker taking leave from the programme should be replaced by an unemployed person.

The state pays the leave-

Danes take year off, share jobs under new dream scheme

taker between 70 per cent and 100 per cent of the Danish maximum unemployment benefit allowance of about \$350 a week before tax.

The substitute gets real wages and valuable labour market experience.

The swap should not cost the state any money, the leave-takers are happy and unemployment figures fall because those on leave are not considered jobless.

Too good to be true? Yes, unfortunately, say critics.

The centre-right opposition and employers say the programme is already causing bottlenecks in the labour market which create wage pressure and threaten to fuel inflation. It could also end up costing the state money, they say.

"Educational leave is good because it raises the skills of the workforce which should secure competitiveness and create jobs in the long run," said Klaus Rasmussen, an economist with the Confederation of Danish Industries.

"But parental leave and sabbaticals should be scrapped at once because they only reduce the workforce and have negative side effects," he said.

One problem is that many

leave-takers, particularly in the private sector, are not being replaced. Flemming Frandsen, a labour market board spokesman, said employers appeared to have replaced little more than half of the leave-takers.

Economists estimate this means extra costs for the state of 21 million crowns (\$3.5 million) for every 1,000 people on leave.

The scheme has brought political gains for the government by cutting the jobless total — leave-takers are removed from the unemployment statistics.

The unemployed are eligible to join the educational and parental schemes and it is attractive for them because it extends the period during which they are eligible for full unemployment benefits.

More than 40 per cent of current leave-takers are unemployed.

Economists calculate that almost all of the fall in unemployment to 11.1 per cent in November 1994 from 12.5 per cent in January was due to the leave schemes — a point stressed by the centre-right opposition.

And critics say the leave programmes are hampering the creation of real private

sector jobs.

The problems of the scheme were highlighted by a rush by 4,800 of Denmark's 45,000 nurses to join the parental leave scheme.

Hospitals have with varying success recruited nurses from abroad to try to make up for the shortage but the nurses' union is now asking for a 15 per cent pay increase.

If the union's claim succeeds, inflationary pay demands could spread to other sectors, economists say.

But the scheme has proved highly popular among the workforce.

The government expected about 20,000 leave-takers in 1994. The labour market board approved 80,798 applications for parental leave, mainly from women in the public sector.

Some 47,000 people opted for education leave and about 13,000 for sabbaticals.

The schemes are expected to be at least as popular in 1995.

Imaginative unions have used the leave programmes to prevent redundancies and increase employment. Bus drivers, office workers, rubbish collectors and others

have introduced rotas under which, for example, 30 workers share 24 jobs.

Each worker gets every fourth week off, with most of the income loss covered by the sabbatical leave programme, in addition to their five or six weeks of paid holiday a year.

Faced with the demand for leave-taking and increasingly aware of the economic risks it could carry, Mr. Rasmussen is cutting compensation for parental and sabbatical leave to 70 per cent of the maximum unemployment allowance from 80 per cent.

A further cut to 60 per cent is planned in 1997, although the allowance for educational leave remains 100 per cent.

Social scientists say the programmes, which indirectly admit the dream of full employment will never be realised, could have a profound effect on the Danish work ethic and mentality.

"The long-term effect is that it promotes the idea that we Danes shall not work always but should be set on being away from the labour market during parts of our life," said senior philosophy lecturer Ole Thyssen.

Russians hunt for Dudayev

(Continued from page 1)

attempt to take back the tram depot in the south of the city, but neither side seemed to have moved from its previous positions.

The Russian forces rained down artillery and mortar shells, many of them striking the area around the Minutka roundabout in Grozny.

But two weeks after Russian forces seized the central presidential palace, then seen as the symbol of Chechen resistance, they seem as far away as ever from gaining full control of the city.

"There was no reason to keep the palace. We gave it up — if we had stayed there it would have become a tomb," said Chechen fighter Deimuh Taramov, sheltering not far from Moutka. "We can last as long as we have bullets, we can last half a year."

A Chechen commander told Interfax news agency the claims were false.

The protracted struggle seemed set to spoil Yeltsin's 64th birthday party on Wednesday.

"That's the sound of Yeltsin celebrating his birthday," said fighter Minkil Erhubov, himself marking his 34th birthday with Tamarov and a dozen other rebels.

Many houses in the area were burning but some people, many of them elderly and sick, still huddled in dark cellars. Some had been there for two months without gas, light or heating.

"Why didn't Yeltsin get us out?" asked Zinaida Grishenko, 60, one of 15 mainly elderly women hiding in one cellar.

Israel allows more building

(Continued from page 1)
the West Bank settlement of Shilo.

Muslim charity raided

Troops raided a Muslim charity on the West Bank and seized documents in a campaign against hardliners fighting against the peace process, Palestinian sources said Wednesday.

The soldiers questioned workers at the offices of the Zakat committee or alms

charity at Ramallah on Tuesday.

"We are totally legal from every point of view," said the committee's Aqel Rahib. "The loss of our dossiers will hamper our services during Ramadan."

The army charges that Muslim fundamentalists, particularly the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, collect money to support the armed struggle under the cover of charity, social or educational institutions.

Troops have raided several such institutions on the occupied West Bank since Jan. 22 when suicide bombers killed 21 Israelis near Netanya.

As part of the crackdown suspects have been arrested on the West Bank, while in the Gaza Strip the Palestinian Authority has detained about 20 suspects.

Two suicide bombers were sheltered by Palestinians who once collaborated with the Jewish state and now live as outcasts, a senior Gaza official said Wednesday.

The men obtained Israeli

army uniforms from the collaborators who live as outcasts in Debeeya, a Gaza Strip village guarded by Israeli forces, said Tayeh Abdul Rahim, secretary general in the bureau of Mr. Arafat.

The assailants, both members of the Islamic Jihad from Gaza, spent the night at Debeeya before crossing into Israel the morning of the attack on Jan. 22, Mr. Abdul Rahim said.

The homelands disguised themselves to pass unnoticed at a bus stop, frequented by soldiers near the coastal re-

sort of Netanya.

"This is the missing link," said Mr. Abdul Rahim of the possibility that collaborators helped the activists.

Mr. Abdul Rahim said his information was obtained "from a variety of sources," but not Israeli.

Mr. Arafat revealed Tuesday that Palestinian security services foiled an attempted suicide bombing by a 15-year-old boy, an Arab-Israeli deputy said.

Two other anti-Israeli attacks had also been thwarted in the past few months.

Jordan League members Home and abroad fall in budget deficit

By I. DUBAI (AFP) — Economic

reform coupled with

spending cuts depressed the

budget deficit of Arab

League's 22 members stood

at \$41 billion compared with

\$45.9 billion in 1992 and a

record \$68.1 billion in 1991,

said the annual economic and

social report compiled by the

Cairo-based Arab League

and three key regional orga-

nisations.

The high deficit in 1991

was caused by large financial

contributions by Saudi Ara-

bia, Kuwait and other Gulf

oil producers to a U.S.-led

campaign to expel Iraqi in-

vasion forces from Kuwait in

February that year.

A decline in oil prices to

\$16.33 from \$18.44 pushed

down total Arab revenues to

nearly \$122 billion in 1993

from \$129.4 billion in 1992

while expenditure was cut to

\$162.9 billion from around

\$175.3 billion, according to

the report, released Tuesday

by the Abu Dhabi-based

Arab Monetary Fund (AMF).

"The decline in the deficit

was a result of measures by

several Arab countries to

rationalise expenditure, in-

crease revenue and upgrade

financial performance as part

of economic reforms," the

360-page report said.

It said the reforms, carried out by both oil and non-oil members, also covered privatisation, reducing subsidies, developing tax systems, encouraging the private sector and attracting local and foreign investment.

It showed public and private investment in the region increased to nearly \$110 billion in 1993 from around \$108 billion in 1992, most of which were in key oil producers — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Libya, Iraq, Algeria and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

A breakdown showed the biggest deficit cut was in Kuwait, which slashed its shortfall to \$5.2 billion in 1993 from \$18.6 billion in 1992.

In contrast, Saudi Arabia saw its deficit grow by around 11 per cent to \$12.3 billion from \$11.1 billion because of a decline in oil earnings, which account for the bulk of its income, the report said.

Algeria's deficit soared to \$7.2 billion from \$583 million while a budget surplus in the UAE of \$456 million turned into a deficit of \$1.64 billion.

Other oil producers like Qatar and Libya managed to reduce the deficit while Oman's shortfall widened.

Yeltsin vetoes law on boosting pensions

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin has vetoed a parliamentary law boosting the minimum pension, saying while he agreed payments to the aged should be increased, the cash-starved country could simply not afford the new measure.

Mr. Yeltsin sent a letter to Ivan Rybkin, chairman of the combative lower house of parliament, the State Duma, saying the law — which also introduced index-linking of pensions — would have cost 23.6 trillion roubles (\$685 million) a year.

The text of the letter was carried by ITAR-TASS news agency.

The Russian leader instead proposed pensions be doubled and the index-linking system be scrapped, a move he said would compensate the aged for price rises in the last quarter of 1994.

The Duma, arguing that pensioners had suffered the most from Russia's hardline economic reforms, on Jan. 18 approved the bill to boost minimum monthly pension to 54,000 roubles (\$13.40) from the current 19,700 (\$5.00).

The Federation Council, the upper house of parliament, passed the measure into law on Jan. 20.

But the government, already strapped by the expensive war in Chechnya, cannot afford to spend more on pensions if it is to keep anywhere near the planned 1995 budget deficit of 74 trillion roubles (\$18.3 billion).

Mr. Yeltsin, who said he had sent the law back to parliament because it did not take government spending limits into consideration, suggested the minimum monthly pension be boosted to 38,000 roubles (\$9.40).

"This necessary measure is aimed at maintaining the standard of living of all pensioners, especially those with few means," he said in the letter. The aged have also been hit by rising inflation.

Mexico markets react with euphoria to Clinton aid

MEXICO CITY (R) — Mexican stock prices soared more than 10 per cent Tuesday, their biggest gain in seven years, as investors cheered a revamped economic aid package announced by U.S. President Bill Clinton for the battered economy.

The battered peso also recovered from historic lows, closing 55 centavos higher at 57.75 per dollar after falling as low as 6.5 on Monday.

Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo struck an up-beat note, saying Mexico's liquidity crisis was now "fully overcome."

But U.S. officials said Mexico had been standing at the brink of the abyss before President Clinton announced the bail-out package.

"The situation was dire in Mexico," Secretary of State Warren Christopher said at a news briefing. "There was the risk of default (on loans) and the problems that would involve not only Mexico but for the United States and for the world economy."

President Clinton, aware of the urgency of Mexico's situation, scrapped plans to try to force up to \$40 billion in loan guarantees for Mexico through Congress. Instead he announced a reduced U.S. credit line of \$20 billion that will not require congressional approval.

He said the U.S. contribution would be in addition to an enhanced credit line of \$17.5 billion from the International Monetary Fund and a "short-term lending facility" of \$10 billion from the Bank of International Settlements.

The Mexican finance ministry said its credit lines from abroad now added up to \$50.76 billion, and the U.S. component could now be paid back over three to 10 years instead of three to six months previously.

A sense of euphoria mingled with relief rippled through Mexican markets, sending interest rates lower as the stock market soared.

Investors had asked for interest rates of up to 40 per cent to cover their risk in buying Tesobonos, the securities that are at the heart of Mexico's six-week-old economic crisis because of fears that the government might not be able to repay them.

Mexico's crisis broke on Dec. 20 when the fledgling government of President Ernesto Zedillo devalued the new peso and then let it float on world markets.

U.S. cigarette exports go up by 14 per cent

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States exported 202 billion cigarettes in the first 11 months of 1994, 14 per cent more than the same period a year ago, the government said Tuesday. The cigarettes were valued at \$4.53 billion, up 27 per cent in value from the same period in 1993, the Agriculture Department said in its World Tobacco Report. Belgium and Luxembourg led the way, importing a combined 65.2 billion pieces followed by Japan, 51.2 billion; Saudi Arabia, 8.73 billion.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY FEBRUARY 2, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Flighter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) By getting in touch with your advisors today you are able to get the advice and answers you are seeking with regard to business and personal matters.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Contact individuals whose experience is different or more extensive than yours so you learn much that is worthwhile and of a lofty nature for use in the future in order to become more successful in your career.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A fine day to decide on policy matters with associates so there is a maximum of cooperation. Take time to come to an understanding this afternoon with those who do not agree with you.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) By getting an early start today, you can put all those accumulated tasks behind you quickly. Your efficiency is at its utmost later this afternoon.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) The ideal day and evening to be working on projects of great size and scope. Contact the right people and start the ball rolling efficiently.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Family is expected to come from you now. Little is said so be very sure that you do your utmost this evening to bring greater harmony and security into the important sphere of your life.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is an ideal day to get in touch with those whose actions are puzzling and from whom you want straight from the shoulder answers. Evening: Good Romance.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Think big and get big should be your motto today, not only in business but personal and creative matters as well as for your success.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A day to think pretty much of self and your most cherished ambition. If it is necessary to go out, by all means stay at home.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Since you keep yourself so busy with practical and material affairs, you will hardly take time for the emotional and creative things of life. Get out to a cultural event this evening.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Seek out plain speaking, honest individuals today if you want to know the truth about yourself. Get fine ideas for advancement. Know how to increase your circle of worthwhile friends.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) The ideal day to get the support you need for important projects from influential friends. Later become interested in the problems and the needs of the public.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY FEBRUARY 3, 1995

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Look to a personal advisor if you want to become better known or perform some task more efficiently. This afternoon, avoid a time waster who shouldn't be allowed access to your office.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) If you get out in the company of experts today, you will get a whole new viewpoint that will help you to become more efficient and successful in your own line of endeavour.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Use tact today and that fine intuition to get the information you need from experts. This will help you get along better with both business and personal ties that are important to you.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Try being witty and humorous with overly serious partners who seldom smile and you find you will make real headway today and be able to establish a far better relationship.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Higher-ups are watching you closely today, so be very sure that you perform all tasks in business or personal life in a highly efficient manner.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Try to devote as much time as possible with close ties during the day, preferably at places of amusement so that you can garner the information you need.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Perform those tasks which will please close ties. Impress them with your true ability, reliability and loyalty. Strive for greater security in that important realm of your existence.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Many benefits and opportunities are yours today provided that you consider the rights and feelings of others as well as those of your own.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be sure you talk over important matters with family tie who is well informed and capable and can give you excellent advice for bettering personal and business affairs.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Contact that personal advisor this morning that you feel is trustworthy and get the know-how for becoming more successful in your daily work and personal contacts as well.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) See that you plan your daily duties so that more time is released so you can commercialise on your special talents. Have a good time this evening and spend it with those you love.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Look to a trusted and devoted older person for advice that you feel is trustworthy and get the know-how for becoming more successful in your daily work and personal contacts as well.

Birthstone of February: Amethyst — Onyx

THE Daily Crossword by James Barrick

ACROSS

- Building stone
- Shades
- Make thoroughly wet
- Keyless in music
- Furnished
- Flourishes
- Impaired
- Edge
- Formal order
- Indigo
- Small animal
- Havana's island
- Impaired
- Unpaid
- "Do" — say
- Secretary award
- Amalgam
- Elad for one
- Not hidden
- Dame
- Protagonist
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Business daily beat

A review
of economic news
from the Arabic press

Jordan starts international business reply service

The Ministry of Post and Telecommunications has started the international business reply service (IBRS) under which subscribers can send cards or leaflets to a reply service without any cost to the sender. This service is now beginning with the United Arab Emirates, Britain, Holland and Denmark. Agreements with other countries are being worked out. Banks, companies and individuals wanting to benefit from this service within Jordan or with other countries should contact the ministry to obtain the necessary documents and pay the annual fee of JD10 (local) or JD25 (local-overseas) (Al Ra'i).

The Ministry of Industry and Trade has approved the restructuring of the National Industry Company which had accumulated JD9 million in losses and had its shares suspended from trading at the Amman Financial Market since the end of 1993. The restructuring, which is to be conducted in three stages, will result in a JD4.2 million paid-up capital (Al Aswaq).

Between 1,500 to 3,000 tonnes of oranges will be imported from the Palestinian territories to cover the needs of the Jordanian market during the month of Ramadan (Sawt Al Shaah).

Jordanian banks which reopened their branches in Palestinian cities in the self-rule areas and the occupied territories are calling on debtors to repay loans obtained before June 5, 1967. According to a specialised lawyer, the loans must be repaid because an Economic Security Committee decision, issued after the 1967 war, had stopped the accumulation of interest on loans and froze the law of statute to ensure debtors repay the loans regardless of a time-frame. Jordanian banks honoured all withdrawals of deposits after the war from their branches in Jordan.

An extraordinary general assembly meeting of the Petra Enterprises and Equipment Leasing Company will be held on Feb. 9, 1995 at a recommendation by the board of directors to merge the company with the Jordan Real Estate Investment Company (Al Aswaq).

The board of directors of the Dar Al Saba Press, Printing, Publishing and Distributing Company has called the general assembly for an extraordinary meeting on Feb. 5, 1995 to discuss restructuring the company's capital (Al Aswaq).

A recommendation by the board of directors of the chieles Owners Federation company to distribute 40 per cent dividend to shareholders will be put to a general assembly meeting on Feb. 6, 1995 (Al Aswaq).

An economic agreement being negotiated with European (EU) countries to boost trade between Jordan and the EU would entail reduction in customs by 50 per cent over the coming five years and a duty free trade after 12 years (Al Dustour).

The drilling directorate of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation drilled 40 new wells, performed maintenance to 46 old wells and made experimental water pumping from about 70 wells in the Kingdom in 1994. The output of all these wells amounts to 3,000 cubic metres per hour, or an overall amount of 26 million cubic metres, most of which runs in a network to supply people with drinking water. The directorate will concentrate this year on drilling wells south of Amman (Al Ra'i).

Kuwait reportedly backs \$2b aluminium project

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait and Saudi investors planning to build a 600 million dinar (\$2 billion) aluminium plant in Kuwait have won preliminary approval from the trade and industry ministry, according to Al Seyassah newspaper.

The group of Kuwaiti and Saudi businessmen had offered to establish the project on a two-square kilometre site at the industrial Shuaiba area south of Kuwait City, it said. It did not identify the investors.

The project would be on the basis of a partnership between the Kuwaiti-Saudi investors but about 100 million dinars (\$335 million) of the project would be open for public subscription, the newspaper reported unidentified sources as saying.

It said Kuwait had been chosen as the site for the project due to the low cost of electricity here. The project was still awaiting the approval of the ministry of electricity and water, the newspaper said. It gave no further details. Kuwait at present has no aluminium industry.

Syria woos back foreign oil company investment

LONDON (R) — Syria is keen to offer investors the most attractive terms possible to lure back foreign oil company participation in exploration and production activities.

Syrian Oil Minister Nadir Nabulsi is in London this week to meet officials from oil companies and oil-service firms including the Royal Dutch/Shell Group, British Petroleum and British Gas to discuss ways to adapt his country's terms to meet the needs of the investor.

"I am ready with an open heart and mind to listen to them," he said. Syria has become a significant oil producer in recent years and production has risen from 160,000 barrels per day (b/d) in 1984 to more than 600,000 b/d last year.

But Mr. Nabulsi said it needs investment to maintain output at current levels and to boost oil revenue which will be used to further develop the country's agricultural programme.

"We need the revenue badly now to develop agriculture. Our country is first an agricultural country," he told a small group of journalists. Oil revenue accounts for about 15-16 per cent of the country's gross domestic product. It is a member of the Organisation of Arab Pet-

roleum Exporting countries (OAPEC) but not of OPEC and sells most of its oil to Mediterranean refiners.

"We feel our terms and conditions can be changed... we're ready to modify any terms that both sides feel possible to choose," Mr. Nabulsi said.

He dismissed claims that oil companies abandoned upstream activities in Syria because of onerous terms set by the Syrian government.

"I ask them 'what are the easy terms?' I'd like to hear from them. We are ready to discuss and negotiate what they want. Sometimes companies like to hide behind (the guise) of terms and conditions," Mr. Nabulsi said.

Of the 12 production-sharing pacts granted by the Syrian government between 1987 and 1990, seven were relinquished in 1991-92 after the companies failed to find

significant oil deposits and only minor finds were made in three other tracts.

But Mr. Nabulsi pointed to the success of Shell and partners Pecten and Deminex which made a major discovery of light sweet crude in the Deir Ez-Zor area in the mid-1980s and subsequent discoveries in the same region.

"When we signed all our contracts, we didn't force the companies," he said. According to Mr. Nabulsi, Shell has invested \$3 billion in Syria and recovered up to \$2.7 billion of its investment. Forty per cent of Syrian crude oil production is assigned to upstream joint-venture partners to recoup investment costs.

Mr. Nabulsi would not discuss Syria hydrocarbon reserves and said any number he mentioned could be revised within six months.

Indo-Jordanian joint venture admits new partner

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Indo-Jordanian Chemicals Company, a joint venture between Indian and Jordanian fertilizer and phosphate companies, have taken in a third partner with 13 per cent equity, a senior company official said Wednesday.

Babu Varghese, deputy chairman and managing director of the Amman-based company, said an agreement was signed this week under which the Riyadh-based Arab Investment Company contributed \$8.34 million to the venture's \$63.33 million capital.

The Southern Indian Petrochemicals Company (SIPIC), which Mr. Varghese represents, owns 52.2 per cent of the equity of the Indo-Jordanian Chemicals Company and the Jordan

Phosphate Mines Company (IPMC) holds the rest.

The Arab Investment Company groups 15 Arab countries and holds equity in joint ventures in several Arab countries.

Total investment in the Indo-Jordanian Chemical Company's project, a phosphate acid plant being built at Shidiyah in the south, is \$169.9 million.

The company has already arranged financing for \$100 million from several foreign sources, including Credit Commerce de France (\$54 million), the International Financing Corporation (\$30 million), and FMO, a Dutch investment firm (\$4 million).

Mr. Varghese said he expected to sign the loan accord with the IFC, an affiliate of the World Bank, and another agreement for \$6 million loan from a consortium of local banks this month. The loans plus the capital of the company would make up \$163.3 million of the project investment. The rest of the needed funds — \$6 million — will be advanced by three equity holders as a loan subordinated to the other credit facilities already raised.

The phosphoric acid plant, whose annual 220,000-tonne output will be exported exclusively to India, is being built by Krebs and Cie of France under a \$120 million turnkey contract signed last year.

The project is scheduled to be completed and handed over to the Indo-Jordan Chemicals Company before May 1997. Mr. Varghese said the company expects to have the

project ready earlier since Krebs had started engineering works four or five months before a downpayment was made on the contract in November.

The Indo-Jordanian Chemicals Company is the largest joint venture for fertilizer production in Jordan and its production is expected to further help the Kingdom's efforts to diversify its fertilizer and phosphate-related activities by focusing on finished products rather than exporting raw materials.

The international phosphate market is slowly recovering from a depression that hit in the early 90s and prices have not fully recovered. However, the market for diammonium phosphate, a ready-to-use fertilizer, has been strong since last year. But Jordan has not been able to take full advantage of the surge since a recent snowstorm and tornado damaged the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company's storage facilities in the south, rendering the company unable to export DAP in bulk. Bagged DAP costs higher and Jordan cannot offer a competitive price in the international market.

IPMC officials have said that they expect the situation to improve in the first quarter of this year after new storage facilities are built to allow export of DAP in bulk. A Japanese consortium, in partnership with the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company, is also building a compound fertilizer plant in the south. The output of that plant will be exported exclusively to Japan.

Gas pipeline sponsors discuss prices with Doha

ABU DHABI (R) — A three-firm consortium, which plans to build an undersea gas pipeline from Qatar to Pakistan is negotiating with the Gulf state about how much to pay for the gas, a Pakistani official has said.

Crecent Petroleum, Transcanada Pipelines Ltd and Halliburton unit Brown and Root form a group which plans to build the pipeline at an estimated cost of \$3.2 billion.

"Crecent is negotiating with Qatar. They originally fixed a price of 70 cents per million cubic feet," said Syed Nasser Ahmad, secretary at Pakistan's ministry of petroleum and natural resources. "We've been informed by the consortium that they're hopeful they can secure a

reasonable price or pin down the original 70 cents," he told Reuters during a visit by a Pakistani economic delegation to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Pakistan, which needs the gas to meet rapidly rising domestic demand, is due to sign a gas supply agreement with the pipeline consortium in the next few months, he added.

But before the project can go ahead, the group needs to sign a formal gas sales agreement with Qatar. Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto came to Qatar last August and told reporters she had agreed with Qatar's emir that work on the pipeline project "should be taken up seriously."

Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Jan 31/1995	Tokyo Close Feb 1/1995
Sterling Pound	1.5400	1.5412**
Deutsche Mark	1.5243	1.5236
Swiss Franc	1.2650	1.2651**
French Franc	5.2630	5.2626**
Japanese Yen	99.63	99.32
European Currency Unit	1.2393	1.2405**

* 100 Pm STD ** Forward Opening @ 8:00 am, CAT

Emergency Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTH	6 MTH	12 MTH
U.S. Dollar	5.25	6.00	6.43	7.00
Sterling Pound	6.00	6.37	6.61	7.54
Deutsche Mark	4.68	4.81	5.00	5.50
Swiss Franc	3.50	3.64	3.93	4.31
French Franc	5.37	5.37	6.00	6.50
Japanese Yen	2.06	2.06	2.06	2.16
European Currency Unit	5.78	6.06	6.44	7.00

Interest Rate Mid-point for immediate borrowing U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent

Precious Metals

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	374.60	7.50	Silver	4.66	0.110

* 21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate (Feb 1995)

Currency	Aid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6990	0.7010
Sterling Pound	1.1050	1.1105
Deutsche Mark	0.4515	0.4608
Swiss Franc	0.5432	0.5459
French Franc	0.1322	0.1329
Japanese Yen	0.7027	0.7062
Dutch Guilder	0.4091	0.4111
Swedish Krone	*****	*****
Italian Lira	0.0435	0.0437
Belgian Franc	*****	*****

* Per 100

Other Currencies

Currency	Aid	Offer
Bahrein Dinar	1.8310	1.8506
Lebanese Lira	0.041940	0.042945
Saudi Riyal	0.1856	0.1869
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3100	2.3600
Qatari Riyal	0.1908	0.1920
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2140
Omani Riyal	1.8060	1.8160
UAE Dirham	0.1692	0.1906
Greek Drachma	0.2705	0.3145
Cypriot Pound	1.3980	1.4975

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.4702/12	Canadian dollar	1.5238/48
	1.7082/92	Deutschemarks	1.2870/80
	31.38/42	Dutch guilders	5.2815/65
	1610.61/6	Swiss francs	99.37/47
	7.4700/00	Belgian francs	6.6740/90
	6.0130/80	French francs	\$1.5794/04
One sterling		Italian lire	\$376.35/376.75
One ounce of gold		Japanese yen	
		Swedish crowns	
		Norwegian crowns	
		Danish crowns	

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Davis Cup World Group ties Becker, Stich lead Germany

LONDON (R) — Boris Becker returns to Davis Cup tennis for Germany this weekend, prepared to forget his bitter rivalry with Michael Stich and play doubles alongside him.

German Davis Cup captain Niki Pilic said the two former Wimbledon champions, who won the doubles gold medal together at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, had agreed to team up for the home tie in Karlsruhe.

"I have talked to both of them and they are also prepared to play doubles together," Pilic said.

Germany, winners three times since 1988, take on a Croatian team spearheaded by big-hitting Goran Ivanisevic in one of eight World Group first round matches starting on Friday.

Becker, who led the Germans to their first triumph in 1988 and helped them defend the title the following year, has decided to return to the team after an absence of more than two years.

His decision to pull out of the event to concentrate on his ranking in 1993 came under heavy fire from Stich who led the country to their third victory in 1993.

At one stage of a very public slanging match, Stich, who said Becker should not be allowed to pick and choose when to play Davis Cup, said he would not represent his country if Becker returned.

With Stich and Becker playing singles and doubles, the Germans have a good chance of clinching this weekend's tie after the first three matches. But they will be wary of the lanky Ivanisevic on the fast indoor surface.

Holders Sweden begin their defence of the title close by in Denmark with no plans to change their 1994 winning formula.

Former world number one Stefan Edberg, now ranked seven in the world and in-form Magnus Larsson will play singles, while top class pairing Jan Apell and Jonas Bjorkman take care of the



Boris Becker

doubles in what looks on paper to be a gentle warm-up tie for them.

But Denmark have a habit of defying the rankings when they have the advantage of home ground. Their team is led by Kenneth Carlsen ranked 190 with Frederik Fetterlein (125), Patrik Langvardt (363) and Morten Christensen (659).

The Danes crashed out in the first round to the Czech Republic in 1993 and to Sweden in 1994, but posted impressive home wins in World Group qualifiers against Argentina (1992), Croatia (1993) and Peru (1994).

Last year's losing finalists Russia are also looking forward to a none too taking tie in Antwerp against Belgium, while Switzerland, losing finalists three years ago take on the Netherlands in Geneva.

Italy have a good chance in Naples against a weakened Czech Republic, whose top players Petr Korda and Karel Novacek said they would not play because of lack of interest and money.

Italy have called up Andrea Gaudenzi and Renzo Furlan as their singles players for the tie on clay, while Stefano Pescosolido and Cristian Brandi will form a makeshift doubles partnership.

By contrast, Spain have taken their strongest squad to Vienna, with French Open champion Sergi Bruguera and last year's Paris finalist Alberto Berasategui supported by Carlos Costa and Emilio Sanchez.

Austria have one world class player in Thomas Muster, but Alexander Antonitsch, Gilbert Schaller and Gerald Mandl are ranked way below.

Outside Europe South Africa's team — Wayne Ferreira, Marcos Ondruska, Pietie Norval and Gary Muller — shoulder a responsibility not just for winning but for bringing back the crowds and money to tennis when they take an Australia in Durban.

Australia have brought a six-strong squad — Patrick Rafter, Richard Fromberg, Jaimie Morgan and Andrew Ilie and the doubles pairing of Mark Woodforde and Todd Woodbridge — to South Africa, planning to make a final choice later in the week.

The strongest tennis nation, the United States, take on France without the world's top two players Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi, who contested the Australian Open final last Sunday.

Instead Jim Courier and Todd Martin will be joined by doubles team Jared Palmer and Richey Reneberg against a rather pale French team, none of whose players fared well in Melbourne.

But Yannick Noah, who led France to their first victory in over half a century as non-playing captain in 1991 when they beat the U.S. in the final, may provide some new spark on his return to the job.

His team consists of Guy Forget, Arnaud Boetsch, Cedric Pioline and Olivier Delaitre.

New arrest in Italian stabbing tragedy

MILAN (AP) — As Italians prepared for the first cancelled soccer round since 1945, police Tuesday arrested a second teen-ager in the stabbing death of a Genoa fan which sparked riots and shocked the country.

Milan police said a 17-year-old youth, identified as M.G., was charged with lending the alleged killer the knife used to stab Vincenzo Spagnolo, 25.

Police have alleged AC Milan fan Simone Barbaglia, 19, knifed Spagnolo in the stomach during a pre-game brawl in the port city of Genoa Sunday.

Barbaglia, a gardener described by police as a member of a hard-core group of AC Milan fans, was charged with voluntary murder.

Milan police, who seized several knives at M.G.'s house, quoted the youth as saying he gave Barbaglia a knife "on his request, for self-defence."

"He said he was ready to cut Genoa fans to pieces if he was attacked," police officers quoted the youth as saying.

M.G. was immediately charged with complicity in murder and illegal possession of arms.

Sunday's murder touched off a nationwide debate about fan violence and led to the decision by Italy's highest sports authority, the National Olympic Committee, to suspend all national sporting events on Feb. 5.

Experts estimated that about 2 million athletes will be sidelined throughout the country Sunday. The soccer blackout will also prevent bets of about 60 billion lire (\$36 million) in the weekly pools.

The suspended round of league games will be played the next Sunday.

Pippen leads Bulls past Lakers

INGLEWOOD (R) — Scottie Pippen scored 34 points and grabbed 13 rebounds as the Chicago Bulls beat the Los Angeles Lakers 119-115 on Tuesday.

B.J. Armstrong scored 25 points and Tony Kukoc added 22 on 8-of-11 from the field for Chicago, which has won two straight games and four of its last six.

"Scottie is a true all-star," said Lakers coach Del Harris. "There's no question about his ability to control a ball game and I thought he was masterful tonight."

In Sacramento, Dennis Rodman's tip-in with eight seconds remaining lifted the San Antonio Spurs to their fourth straight victory, a 97-96 triumph over the Kings.

David Robinson had 23 points and 13 rebounds and Sean Elliott added 19 points to pace the Spurs. Mitch Richmond had 33 points and Spud Webb chipped in 13 for the Kings.

Sacramento took a 96-95 lead with 1:02 remaining on a basket by Olden Polynice. Robinson missed a shot for San Antonio, but Rodman tipped in the rebound. The Kings had one more possession but turned it over in the final seconds.

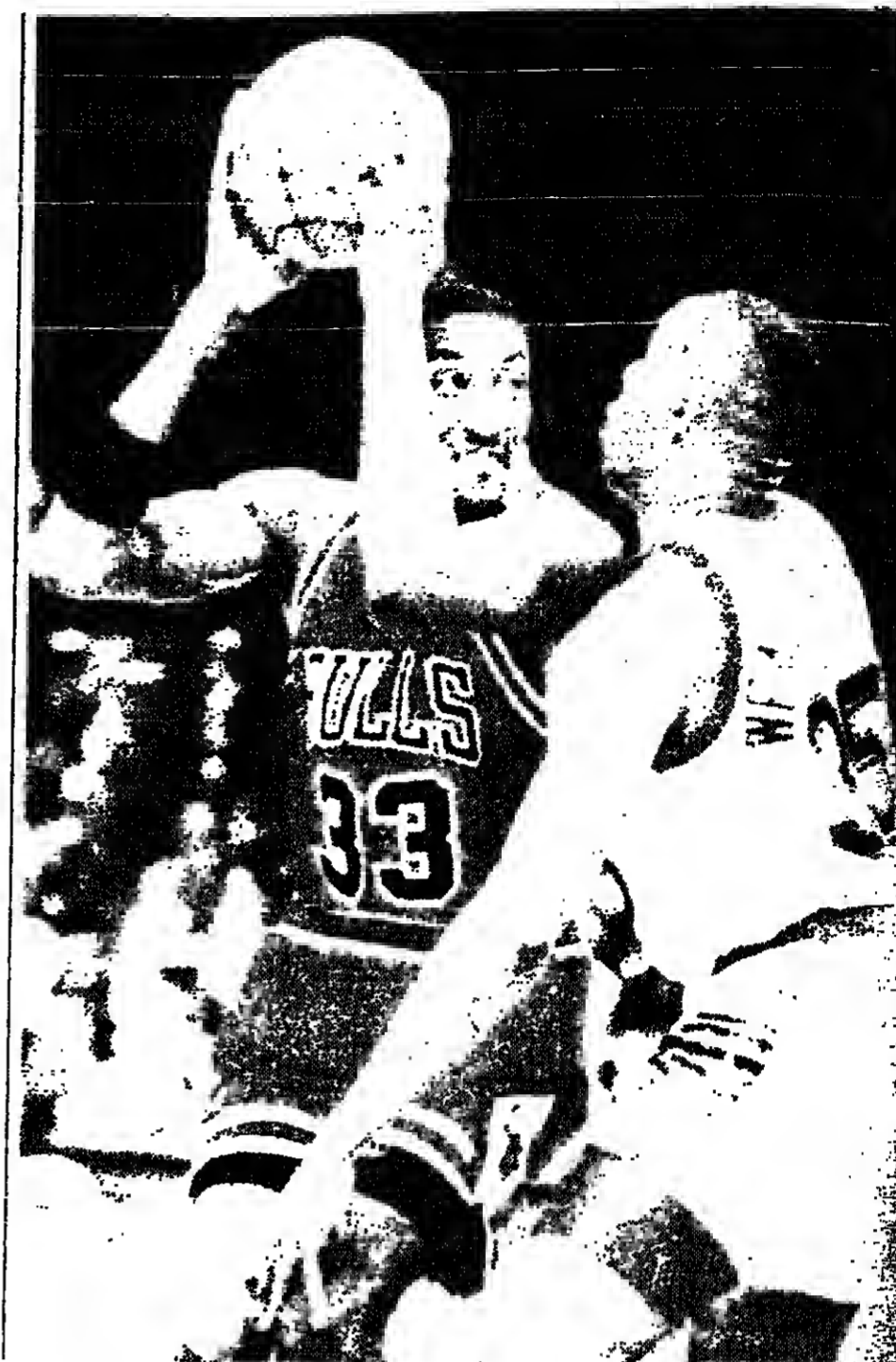
In New York, Derek Harper scored a season-high 26 points to lead the Knicks to a 90-87 win over the short-handed Golden State Warriors.

Harper's seventh 3-pointers of the game with 40 seconds left extended a two-point lead to 88-83 and sealed the win for the Knicks, who have won eight of nine and 16 of their last 18 games. Patrick Ewing had 19 points and 14 rebounds for New York, which set a team record with 13 3-pointers.

Tim Hardaway netted 24 points for the Warriors but was held scoreless in the fourth quarter.

The Warriors, already without injured starters Rony Seikaly and Chris Mullin, played without leading scorer Latrell Sprewell and key reserve Clifford Rozier. Sprewell has a sprained foot and Rozier was suspended by the team for one game for missing a team shoot-around.

Golden State was further hampered when Tom Gugliotta left the game with a



Scottie Pippen of the Chicago Bulls #33 goes up against an opponent (AFP photo)

bruised right knee in the second quarter. He did not return, leaving the Warriors with just eight players.

In Houston, Hakeem Olajuwon had 25 points, 13 rebounds and five blocked shots as the Rockets cruised to an 86-74 victory over the slumping Denver Nuggets.

Oris Thorpe had 15 points, Mario Elie added 12, and Vernon Maxwell chipped in 10 for the Rock-

ets, who have won three of their last four games.

Rodney Rogers had 23 points to lead Denver, which has dropped seven of its last eight games.

At Washington, Mugsy Bogues scored 20 points and Hersey Hawkins added 17 points and 11 rebounds as the Charlotte Hornets defeated the Bulls 97-88.

Scott Burrell and Larry Johnson scored 15 points apiece, Del Curry added 14 and Alonzo Mourning chipped in 12 for Charlotte, which posted its third straight win.

Calbert Cheaney scored 23 points and Rex Chapman had 18 to pace the Bulls, who have split their last six games.

Results

New York	90	Golden State	87
Milwaukee	107	Dallas	105
Charlotte	97	Washington	88
Houston	86	Denver	74
Chicago	119	LA Lakers	115
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French swimmer solo swim

PUERTO RICO (AP) — A French adventurer is attempting to swim the Atlantic Ocean in just days away from becoming the first human to cross an ocean.

Guy Delage, 42, is about 100 miles (160 kilometres) off the coast of Barbados, where he is expected to end his journey on Feb. 9.

His condition is very good, he's very tired," said Martin Plagman, the U.S. spokesman for Sector Oceaniques, the Paris-based team monitoring the French swimmer's trip.

Accompanied by an unpowered raft loaded with supplies, Delage set out to swim the 2,440-mile (3,904-kilometre) route to the West Indies on Dec. 16 from the Cape Verde Islands, off the western coast of Africa.

Nordiques go

QUEBEC CITY (R) — Joe Sakic had a goal and three assists and Uwe Krupp scored a pair of power-play goals as the Quebec Nordiques improved to 5-0 with a 5-1 victory over the Philadelphia Flyers Tuesday.

Sakic scored a shorthanded goal with 2:33 left in the first period to tie the game at 2-2 and assisted on Quebec's final three goals.

"We played another smart game and a solid third period," said Sakic, whose team has not allowed a third-period goal this season, outscoring the opposition 9-0 in the final 20 minutes of its first five games.

Krupp put the Nordiques ahead to stay when he beat goalie Hextall with a slap shot from the blue line at the 11:10 mark of the second period. Wendel Clark and

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Armand Assante & Sherilyn Fenn in FATAL INSTINCTS

Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30.

French swimmer doing first solo swim across Atlantic

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — A French adventurer trying to swim the Atlantic Ocean is just days away from becoming the first human to cross an ocean.

Guy Delage, 42, is about 350 miles (560 kilometres) off the coast of Barbados, where he is expected to end his journey on Feb. 9.

"His condition is very good but he's very tired," said Kevin Plagman, the U.S. spokesman for Sector Oceanantes, the Paris-based technical team monitoring the French swimmer's trip, on Tuesday.

Accompanied by an unmanned raft loaded with supplies, Delage set out to swim the 2,440-mile (3,904-kilometre) route to the West Indies on Dec. 16 from the Cape Verde Islands, off the Western Coast of Africa.

He swims holding onto a 2-foot (0.6-metre) float which contains a survival mini-raft, a desalination device, a distress beacon, a compass, and a special underwater rifle to ward off sharks.

Delage swims for about 10 hours a day and sleeps aboard the 15-foot (4.5-metre) raft, which has its own guidance and propulsion system. The raft can also repel sharks and poisonous jellyfish with a system that sends out electric shocks.

Two weeks into his journey, Delage had to fight severe seasickness, which was followed by severe depression and monotony.

In early January, a storm knocked out computer equipment that drifts near him or in his unmanned raft. Delage has devices hooked up to his body that transmit daily physiological data to his Paris-based support team.

"The team says that about 20 per cent of the data they planned to collect was lost during the failure," said Julie Welik, another U.S. spokeswoman for Oceanantes.

The Paris team has been collecting position, speed, route and water temperature by daily communications with Delage. They are also monitoring his physical condition, his mental state and nutritional intake.

Last week, Delage was heartened at the sight of North American sooty terns, the first sign that he was close to land fall, Plagman said.

Delage is expected to talk to the media at a news conference in the Marriott Sam Lord's Castle Hotel in Barbados following his landing.

Date reaches Pan Pacific quarters

TOKYO (R) — Japan's Kimiko Date and Iva Majoli of Croatia secured their places in the quarter-finals of the \$806,250 Pan Pacific Open women's tennis tournament after second round victories on Wednesday.

Date easily took the first set 6-1 in her match against compatriot and qualifier Yone Kamio, but then dropped the second 6-2 after some erratic play.

But the fifth seed showed solid form in both service and groundstrokes to take the third set 6-2.

The injury forced her to retire from last month's New South Wales Open semifinal against Lindsay Davenport of the United States.

Date will meet the winner of Thursday's second-round match between top seed Conchita Martinez of Spain and Indonesia's Yayuk Basuki.

Majoli shrugged off a tough challenge from Dutch woman Kristie Boogert to take her match 3-7, 7-6, 6-4.

Drechsler eager to jump against Joyner-Kersey

NEW YORK (R) — Nobody can make Heike Drechsler jump like Jackie Joyner-Kersey.

Because the German world champion long jumper doesn't often go up against the American ex-champion, Drechsler regards Friday's contest at the Millrose Games in Madison Square Garden as "the best competition of the indoor season, just because I get to jump against Jackie."

The confrontation between the two greatest jumpers of the past decade highlights a meet that includes 11 Olympic and 19 world champions, including Russian pole vaulter Sergei Bubka, Moroccan legend in the mile Said Aoutia and U.S. decathlete Dan O'Brien.

Since 1983, when Drechsler won her first world title at age 18, either she or Joyner-Kersey has ranked as the world's leading long jumper in each year except 1989, when neither woman competed.

Drechsler had won 27 straight long jump competitions before pulling out of the 1987 World Championships in Rome. It was there that Joyner-Kersey began dominating the event, winning a string of gold medals that included the 1988 Olympic title in Seoul and the 1991 World Championships in



Heike Drechsler of Germany soars through the air (AFP photo)

Tokyo.

That lasted until the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, where Drechsler, silver medalist in Seoul, finished first and Joyner-Kersey was third. Drechsler also captured the gold medal on home soil, at the '93 worlds in Stuttgart.

What's more, the on-field rivals have become fast off-field friends.

"Of course when we are in competition, Jackie is my greatest motivation to jump far," said Drechsler. "But out of competition, we like each other very much. The first time I met her was in '87. She is a very nice person, very natural and never arrogant."

The choice of events seems greater than ever for Drechsler, who, in 1984, equalled the 200-metre world record set by countrywoman Marita Koch and who last year, in her first multi-sport event since 1982, sported the best heptathlon score of the year with 6741 points.

Until then, the heptathlon had been the domain of Joyner-Kersey, the double Olympic champ and world record holder. "I did the heptathlon just for fun," said Drechsler, who is now thinking of training for the event at either the 1995 World Championships in Göteborg, Sweden or the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. "I think if I com-

pete against Jackie, it will motivate me for a better score," Drechsler said.

So far the German has competed once during the indoor season, leaping 6.96 metres in Grenoble, France on Sunday. Still, Drechsler insisted she does not like to jump indoors. "Not at all," she said. "I like the summer-time and the sun."

Still, Drechsler recalls the intimate atmosphere of Madison Square Garden where a creaky, wood-chipped 110-metre track is wedged along the wall supporting the lower rows of spectators. "The people are so close," she says. "That you can feel all of their noise."

Drechsler competed once in the Garden, ironically setting two world indoor records in the morning qualifying session of the 1987 U.S. indoor championships, which fewer than 100 spectators attended.

Nordiques go 5-0 with win over Flyers

QUEBEC CITY (R) — Joe Sakic had a goal and three assists and Uwe Krupp scored a pair of power-play goals as the Quebec Nordiques improved to 5-0 with a 5-2 victory over the Philadelphia Flyers Tuesday.

Sakic scored a shorthanded goal with 2:33 left in the first period to tie the game at 2-2 and assisted on Quebec's final three goals.

"We played another smart game and a solid third period," said Sakic, whose club has not allowed a third-period goal this season, outscoring the opposition 9-0 in the final 20 minutes of its first five games.

Krupp put the Nordiques ahead to stay when he beat Ron Hextall with a slap shot from the blue line at the 10:09 mark of the second period. Wendel Clark and

Krupp scored 2:57 apart in the third period to extend Quebec's lead to three goals.

Fiset, who was named the NHL player of the week on Monday, needed only 20 saves to earn his fifth win in as many starts. He did not allow a goal in the final 48:26 of the game.

Quebec took a 1-0 lead on Scott Young's first goal of the season just 35 seconds into the contest. But the Flyers claimed a 2-1 advantage on first-period goals from Eric Lindros and Josef Beranek.

At New Jersey, Bill Guerin's second goal of the game gave the Devils their first victory of the season, 2-1 over the Buffalo Sabres.

The Devils (1-3-1), who opened the season with four road games, won their fourth straight home opener. New Jersey, the last NHL team to play a home game, improved to 4-0-2 in its last six home openers.

At Florida, Steve Thomas scored two power-play goals and Jamie McLennan made 15 saves, leading the New York Islanders to a 5-1 victory over the Panthers.

Results	
NY Islanders	5 Florida
New Jersey	2 Buffalo
Quebec	5 Philadelphia
Tampa Bay	4 Montreal
St. Louis	7 Anaheim

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West led the jack of diamonds

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Armand Assante & Sherilyn Fenn in FATAL INSTINCT Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		Julia Roberts & Nick Nolte in I Love Trouble Shows: 12:30, 2:30, 8:30, 10:30 The movie: THE LION KING will be shown on Fridays and Thursdays at 11:00 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.		Sylvester Stallone - Sharon Stone in The Specialist Shows: 12:30, 2:30, 8:15, 10:30 CONCORD "2" Tom Hanks ... in Sleepless in Seattle Shows: 2:30, 6:00		SUM'A in the satirical play HI CITIZEN Composed and directed by Mohammad Al Shawaqieh Daily from 8 p.m. Children's Play The Ninja Turtles Show Directed by Akram Abul Ragheb Daily at 10:30 p.m.		Presents Abu Awwad in the social comedy Punctured Bag The theatre is closed on Mondays Tickets are available all day		Presents: AL SALAM YA SALAM at 8:30 p.m. For reservation, please call 825155 The theatre is closed on Saturdays & Sundays	

U.N. installs more monitors in Iraq, plans more work

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — U.N. experts have installed more weapons monitoring equipment in Iraq but are not yet ready to certify full Iraqi compliance with Gulf war ceasefire terms, a U.N. official said on Wednesday.

Caran Wallen, director of the United Nations monitoring centre in Baghdad, said several teams of U.N. inspectors and experts have visited Iraq already in 1995 and added: "We have deployed more sensors and equipment at Iraq's weapons sites."

He said discussions were continuing with Iraq for a fuller picture of past weapons activities, particularly in the biological warfare area.

"There have been some signs of improvement in the biological sphere," Mr. Wallen told Reuters. He declined to elaborate.

He added that more needed to be done before the U.N. Special Commission disarming Iraq under the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire terms declared Baghdad was in full compliance.

"There is no way to say when monitoring will be in place," Mr. Wallen said. "A lot of equipment still needs to be installed. There are a lot of sensors to put in place and new adjustments are needed for previous installations."

He said more laboratories were needed and a high level of security was needed as the Iraqis feared information collected through monitoring would slip into the hands of other countries.

Mr. Wallen said supply of missing data by Iraq would help the U.N.'s efforts to put the arms monitoring programme in place. He added that the U.N. had just started provisional monitoring in Iraq for biological warfare materials.

Mr. Wallen said Iraq has fully honoured its obligations to have a ban on its oil exports, imposed when it invaded Kuwait in 1990, eased or lifted. Iraqi arms officials said it was just a matter of time to fulfill remaining U.N. demands.

The United Nations Security Council, under pressure from the United States, voted last month to leave the sanctions on Iraq intact.

Mohammad Baqer Al Hakim, leader of Iraq's Shiite Muslim opposition, called in an interview published Wednesday for Kuwait's help to depose Saddam Hussein.

saying this goal could be achieved in 1995.

"We can give the Kuwaiti people this good news if they accept to play a role in supporting the Iraqi people to overthrow Saddam," he told the independent daily newspaper Al Qabas.

"If all those who were harmed by Saddam participate, there will be a real chance for doing that," he added, without elaborating on the support he wants.

Sheikh Hakim has visited Kuwait at least three times since a U.S.-led coalition evicted occupying Iraqi troops in the Gulf war four years ago.

On Monday, the senior Shiite cleric met with the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, and the crown prince and prime minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah.

Details of their discussions were not disclosed.

Sheikh Hakim told the newspaper the Iraqi opposition believes the "Iraqi people had a real chance to overthrow" the Iraqi president who has survived many coup and assassination attempts.

Twenty Iraqi air force and army officers were reportedly executed last month for plotting the latest attempt that also aimed to kill his family and top lieutenants.

The senior Shiite cleric said he had "accurate numbers and information" indicating that the Iraqi army will support a popular uprising when circumstances are right and that the "regime will not be able to confront a general mobilisation of the army."

He said when this happens, he did not want any foreign meddling in his country.

"What is required from the international community during the operation is not to interfere in Iraq. But we want it to protect the Iraqi people from genocide that could be perpetrated by the regime," the opposition leader said.

he said the regime has cut off the ears and branded the foreheads of 3,000 army deserters, and arrested another 3,000 two months ago in Mosul, Al Ramadi and Baghdad. About 300 remain in custody today.

"Political freedom... and good relations with neighbours should be the basis for Iraq's future government," Sheikh Hakim told the paper.



'NEW TECHNIQUE: Israeli police uses a sniffer dog for the first time on Tuesday, checking vehicles and Palestinians at the Al Ram roadblock on the main road north of Jerusalem.

The old Palestinian man holds his nose because Muslims are not supposed to go near dogs during Ramadan, the fasting month (AFP photo)

U.N. report slams Israel's occupation

GENEVA (AFP) — Israel's continuing military grip on the occupied territories was slammed in a scathing new United Nations report on human rights Wednesday.

The report's author Rene Felber registered his disgust at the situation by asking the U.N.'s Human Rights Committee, meeting here this week, to remove him from his post as special rapporteur on the occupied territories.

The publication of the report, he said, served only to "salve the conscience of the international community. It is an alibi role that I refuse."

"Only states, through bilateral or multilateral relations can influence the Israeli government or the peace process negotiators," he said.

The strongly-worded report is published a day before

a hastily-convened summit of Egyptian, Israeli, Jordanian and Palestinian leaders in Cairo which will focus on the negotiations to extend Palestinian self-rule on the West Bank. The talks have been suspended since a suicide bombing on Jan. 22 killed 21 Israelis.

Mr. Felber is the only U.N. official with a mandate authorising him free access to Israel and the occupied territories, which he visited last October.

He said the behaviour of the Israeli army had not changed since the September 1993 agreement which created the Palestinian Authority.

Mr. Felber, a former Swiss foreign minister, criticised the army's tactic of arbitrary arrests, the sealing-up of

Palestinian houses, and "interrogations carried out in unacceptable conditions."

"Let us stop imagining that the military occupation of the territory by a foreign army is compatible with respect for human rights as we understand and define them."

The Israeli troops stirred up hatred against the Palestinians, he said, citing the example of a Palestinian family brutally expelled from their Ramallah home in the middle of the night of Oct. 19, whose house was ransacked.

Mr. Felber criticised the Israeli policy of extending Israeli settlements inside the occupied territories. Israelis controlled the water supply, he said, and as a result, the Palestinians received less and had to pay more than Israeli settlers.

He attacked the "Israelisation" of the city of Hebron where Palestinians were prevented from living a normal life and were being forced to leave, while in Gaza City, the Palestinian authorities were "crumbling under the weight of problems."

The Gaza economy was struggling with 60 per cent unemployment, the widespread availability of arms which made security difficult, and the lack of infrastructure, Mr. Felber said.

The U.N. rapporteur also criticised the "precarious conditions" for detainees held in the Ketzioz military camp in the desert.

He said the international community had a duty to provide political and financial support for the peace process.

U.S. cites PNA for rights abuse

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Palestinians are guilty of some of the same abuses they once accused Israel of since they took control of some functions in Gaza and Jericho last May, the State Department said Wednesday.

Elsewhere, praising progress in the Middle East peace process, the U.S. also urged an end to special U.N. human rights scrutiny of Israeli practices in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In a speech to the U.N. Human Rights Commission, U.S. delegate Geraldine Ferraro backed a recommendation by U.N. investigator Rene Felber that his mission should come to an end.

Mr. Felber, who is scheduled to present his report to the 53-nation body Friday, concluded that political condemnation had failed to improve Israeli respect for human rights and there should be a change in methods.

Algeria disagreed with the recommendation, and said serious rights violations continued unchecked.

The European Union said in a statement that the rights situation remained "of great concern, not least because of the expansion of Israeli settlement."

"We believe that the commission should reject the excessive and unproductive rhetoric which has characterised the debate on the Middle East all too often in the past," commented Ms. Ferraro.

"Let us recognise and honour those who, like this year's Nobel Peace Prize winners Yasser Arafat, Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin, have put hope and human rights ahead of hatred."

The State Department report released in Washington noted that the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) assumed authority for Gaza and Jericho only in May and so, "it is difficult to assess fully the (PNA's) human rights record for the period under review."

It said that in the case of the one extrajudicial killing, involving a detainee in custody, individuals were charged with misconduct in the case, but none has been brought to trial.

The report concludes that despite such problems there were "clear improvements in the human rights situation in the occupied territories in 1994," including no deportations by Israel of Palestinians for the second straight year.

But it also said "there were credible reports that during 1994 Israel mistreated, and in some cases tortured, Palestinians during arrest and interrogation."

The report also faults China as "an authoritarian state" that failed to improve its record of "widespread and well-documented human rights abuses" during a year when President Clinton extended Beijing's favoured trading status.

The report is compiled primarily from information gathered by U.S. diplomatic missions around the world.

— Iraq, where information was drawn from non-U.S. sources because there is no U.S. embassy in Baghdad, the report said an abysmal record did not improve — and worsened in several areas. There was mass executions of political opponents, widespread use of torture, extreme repression of ethnic groups, disappearances and arbitrary detention.

— Iran, where information also was obtained from non-U.S. sources, there was no evidence of improvement in 1994, systematic abuses included arbitrary arrests and detentions, widespread use of torture and summary executions. "There is a lively and open debate on political issues, but the ruling clerics effectively control the electoral process," the report said.

— Turkey, in armed conflict with the Kurdish Labour Party, restricts the press and keeps civilians out of certain areas when it declares a state of emergency. The human rights situation worsened significantly, with police and security forces using torture and excessive force, it said.

Yeltsin turns 64 'without fuss'

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin turned 64 Wednesday, but did not like fuss and "there will be no banquets in the Kremlin today," his chief protocol, Vladimir Shchegolev, said here. Mr. Yeltsin told the ITAR-TASS news agency that the president was scheduled to hold several working meetings, and that he always tried to avoid public appearances on his birthday. His schedule Wednesday included meetings with business leaders, economic reform in Russia, and with the Russian Orthodox Church Patriarch, Alexei II. The president was due to spend the evening at home with family and friends. "Yeltsin usually marks his birthdays at home with family and old pals as well as with his children and grandchildren," Mr. Shchegolev said. The president and his wife Naina have two daughters, one grandson and two granddaughters.

Combined agency dispatches

CAIRO — Arab leaders won a pledge from Israel at the landmark summit here to respect talks with the Palestinians but failed to make any progress on a pullback of Israeli troops on the West Bank, the closure of the territories or an end to settlement work.

All three issues have dogged negotiations to extending Palestinian self-rule on the West Bank, throwing the initial timetable way off schedule.

But an Egyptian official said Friday that the aim of Thursday's landmark summit was the leaders of Israel, Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) was "not to resolve the outstanding issues between the Israelis and the Palestinians."

Instead it was aimed "at setting up a mechanism to solve these problems."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Friday called the meeting "a turning point" in peace which would continue "to act in the direction of peace in the Middle East."

He held five hours of talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, PLO leader

Yasser Arafat, and Jordanian King Hussein.

He also met with Israeli Foreign Minister David Netan.

He also met with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

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Knesset members

TEL AVIV (AP) — Almost a

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As his guest, Israel Radio

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travel Sunday morning and return

King Hussein, the report said. The

by Prime Minister Yitzhak

show the two countries ended a 4

signed a peace treaty on Oct. 26,

the opposition Likud Party, visit

Volume 19 Number 5835

Israel sa

summit

Combined agency dispatches

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